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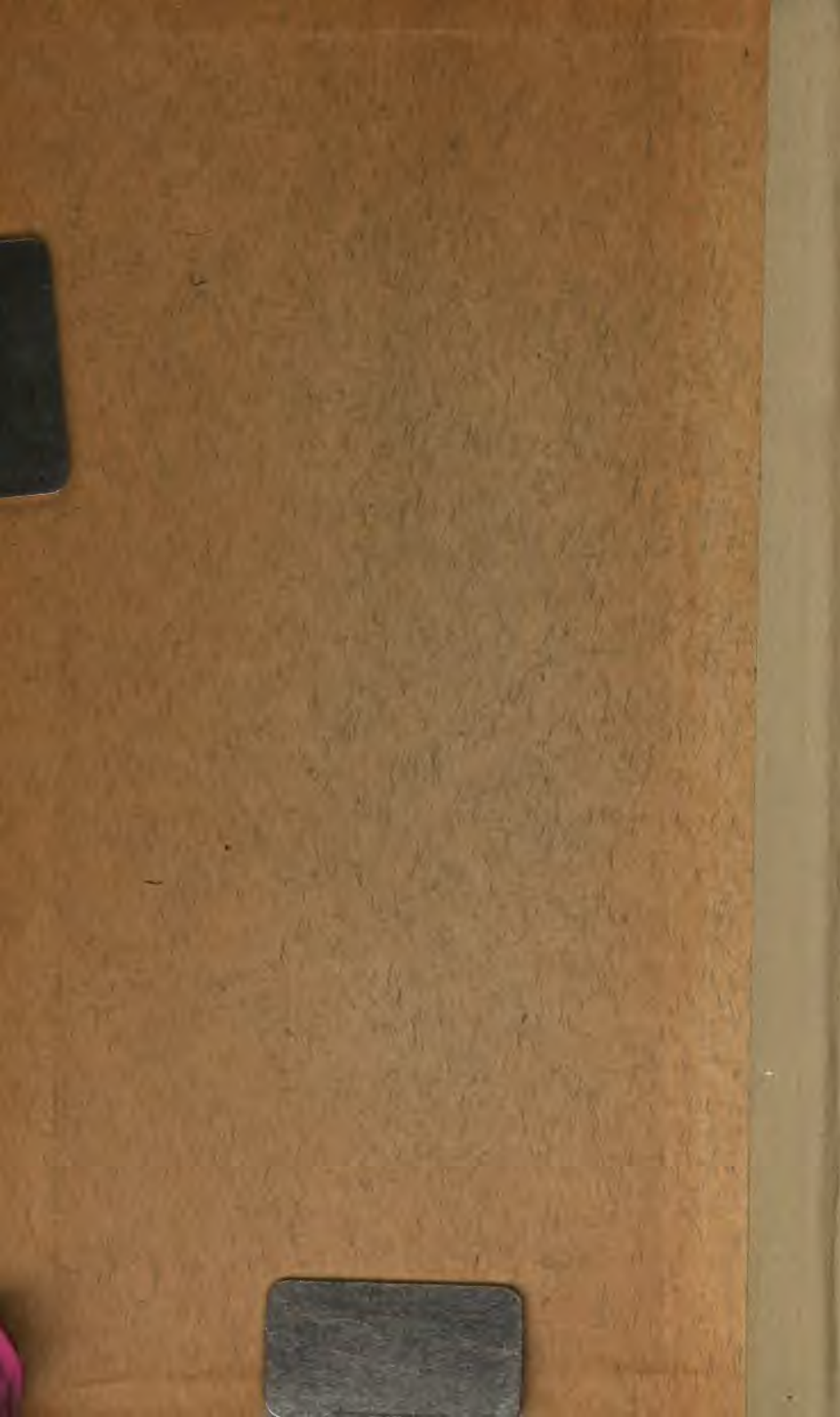
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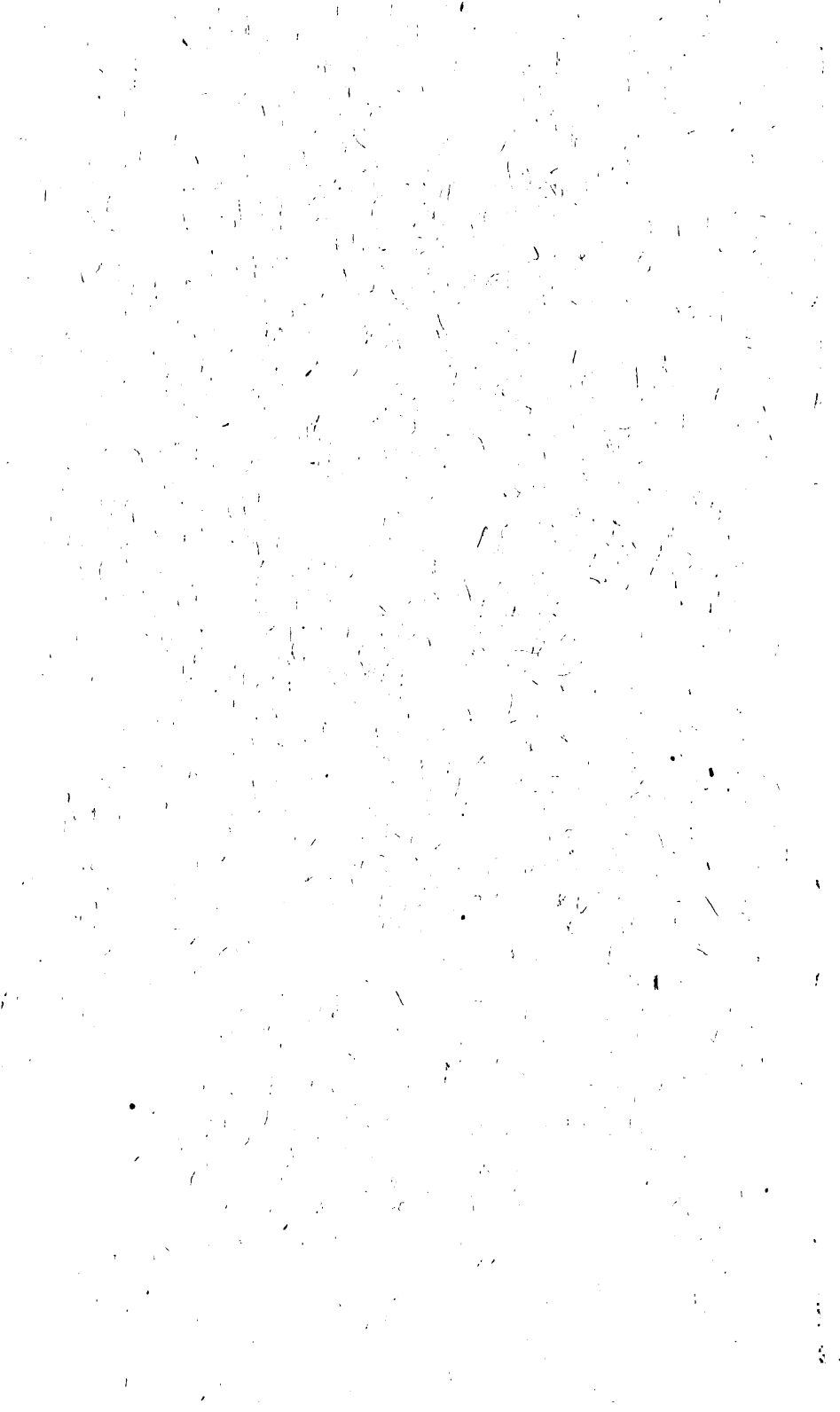
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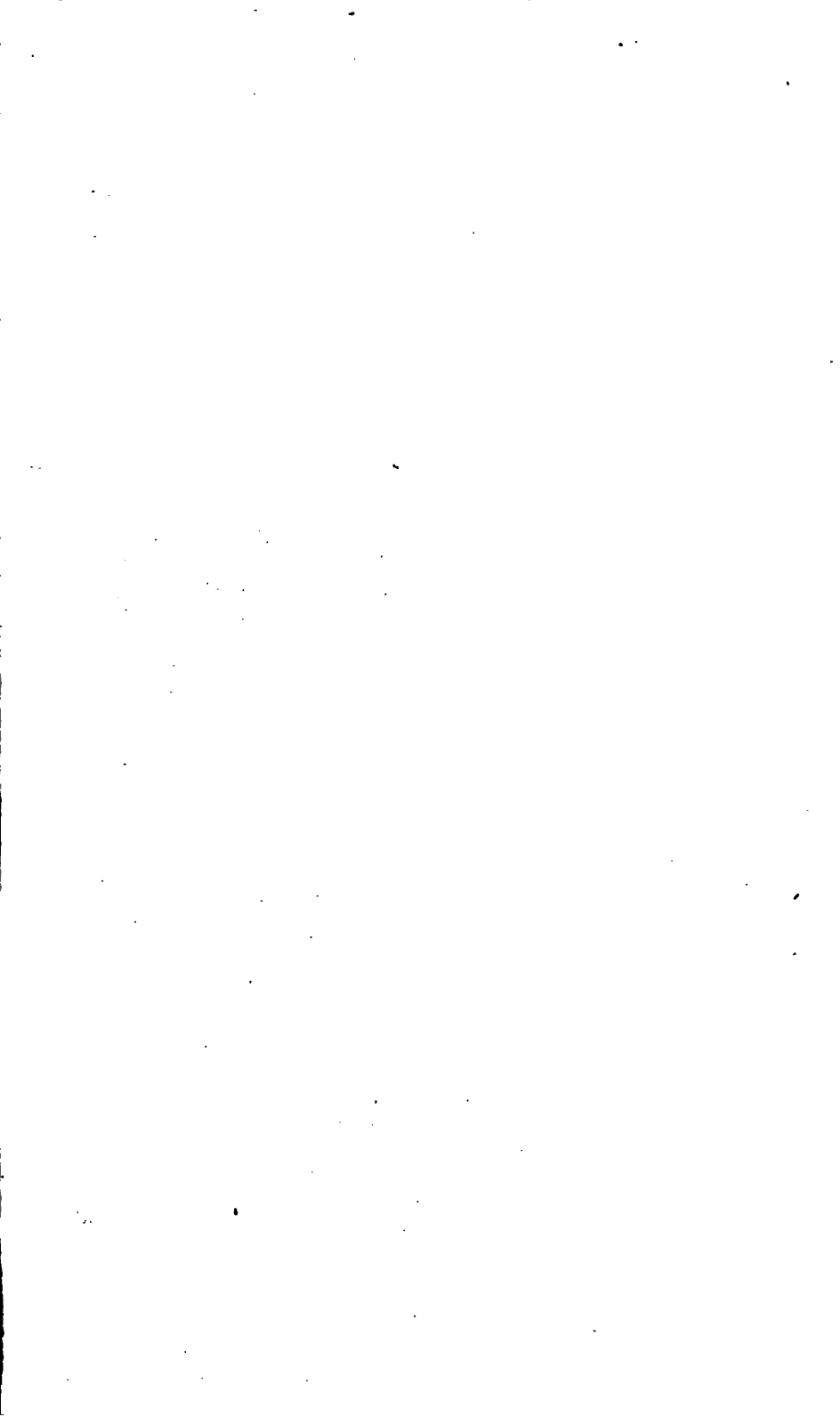
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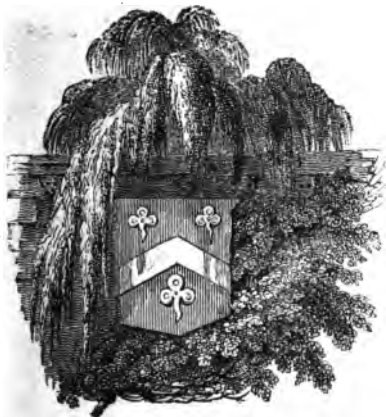
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SOUTH EAST VIEW OF SLEAFORD.

SKETCHES,
ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE
TOPOGRAPHY AND HISTORY
OF
NEW AND OLD
SLEAFORD,

IN THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN,
AND OF
SEVERAL PLACES IN THE SURROUNDING
NEIGHBOURHOOD.

EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.



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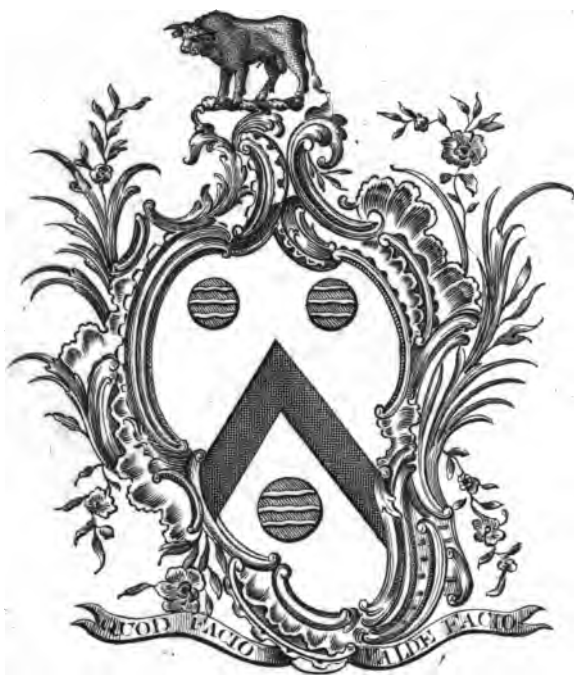
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FREDERICK WILLIAM HERVEY,

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MANORS OF NEW AND OLD SLEAFORD,

THESE SKETCHES

WITH PERMISSION, MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

HIS LORDSHIP'S OBLIGED HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE PUBLISHER.



TO THE READER.

THE Publisher, in presenting the following Sketches to the world, takes this opportunity of most respectfully returning his sincere and grateful thanks to those several literary Gentlemen who have rendered him such valuable assistance in bringing them forward,—without whose aid they would certainly have wanted much of their present value and interest. Although it would have afforded the Publisher the highest gratification had he been permitted to record, in this place, the names of those to whom he feels especially indebted, yet, as some Gentlemen who have exerted themselves in furtherance of the work, have strictly enjoined that their names should not be made public, he has deemed it proper to make the above general acknowledgment in preference to particularizing any of his Friends, and humbly trusts the whole of them will see the propriety of his plan in so doing.

In this Work, which comprises some account of more than forty towns, villages, and hamlets, the reader must not look for any lengthened historical disquisition; all that has been attempted is to give an *outline* only of each place. A minute description of the exterior and interior of the respective churches, strict veracity, and an ardent desire to avoid giving offence to any individual, will, it is presumed, be discovered as the leading characteristic of this publication.

It will be perceived that, in several of these Sketches, in common with the local topography of this county already published, there is a considerable hiatus between the period to which the ancient account is brought down and that from which the modern one is commenced; nor can we hold out a hope of having this chasm filled till certain individuals, in whose possession much valuable information is supposed to remain, shall become actuated with more liberal sentiments.

The quantity of interesting matter furnished for some of the parishes, having extended the work to upwards of eighty pages more than stated in the prospectus, the Appendix, which was intended to contain historical notices of several other places in the county of Lincoln, is unavoidably omitted. With respect to the Sleaford family, an engraving of whose arms,—*Arg. a chevron, or. between 3 trefoils*,—taken from York's Union of Honour, is introduced in the title-page, very little is now known, further than that in the year 1662, the manor of Obthorpe, in this county, which had then been recently enclosed, belonged to them.

The drawings principally, and the copper-plate engravings, are by Mr. R. L. Wright, 338 Strand, London, and will, it is conceived, be esteemed a credit to his talents.

The Publisher closes this brief preface with returning his humblest acknowledgments to the Right Honourable the Earl of Bristol, for his condescension in patronizing the work, as well as to upwards of four hundred and thirty Nobles, Clergy, Gentry, and others, who have become subscribers thereto.

STAMFORD, October, 1841.

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SKETCHES

OF

NEW AND OLD SLEAFORD,

AND THE

NEIGHBOURHOOD.



HISTORICAL NOTICE OF THIS DISTRICT PREVIOUS TO THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

THE research of the antiquarian may not be denominated a futile pursuit, or the mere offspring of curiosity; it has far nobler objects in view: and even the collector of ancient relics and legends, the humblest drudge and labourer in the field, while childishly amusing himself, is performing the important task of preparing materials for the master workman. Indeed the study of antiquity may be truly considered one of particular importance to mankind, as from it may be drawn the most consolatory conclusions. From the history of ancient times, we are enabled to demonstrate a gradual

amelioration in manners, and an improvement in morals, sciences and arts: for although it has been observed, that almost every age has possessed a few individuals, who, in knowledge and abilities far surpassed their contemporaries, yet that knowledge which they acquired individually may now be said to be common to all; and it is to the general diffusion of knowledge that we must alone look for general amendment. What then can be more satisfactory, what more encouraging to the mind, what can lead us to look forward with more well-grounded expectation to the vast future superiority of man, than when, supported by the Genius of History on the one side, and of Antiquity on the other,—this holding up the record of the past, the other its illustration, to our view,—we are enabled to delineate the flattering outline of our moral and intellectual advancement?

In this point of view then, every contributor of facts (and without facts there can be no science) to light the way of the mind towards the temple of knowledge, so desirable to all, may hope to obtain the approbation of the reflecting reader. But, unfortunately, instead of contributing elucidating facts, it appears that our more humble and less pleasing task will be to expose error: for, at the first step we endeavour to take, in the path of the present inquiry, we find ourselves enveloped in a cloud of contradictions; and if we hold up in aid the lights of others, their various rays shooting across each other, only dazzle and confuse the more. To drop the metaphor, we mean to say that ancient authorities are so very contradictory, with regard to the inhabitants which Julius Cæsar found in this our island, that, in perusing their statements, incongruities repeatedly occur; and we cannot but observe that, if some observations even of the same writer are true, others must be false: and yet it is under the guidance of such leaders as these, that our learned

antiquaries have formed their narratives. Let us proceed to examine what has been handed down relative to the

ANCIENT BRITONS.

The natives of that part of Britain now under review, are said, previous to the invasion of the island by J. Cæsar, to have been called Coritani,^a a tribe which, as frequently by others observed, possessed the whole of this county of Lincoln, and also those now called Leicester, Rutland, Derby, Nottingham, and Northampton. These people, in common with the other inhabitants of the island, were, by the haughty Romans, denominated barbarians; and Cæsar, in his "Commentaries," makes mention of several instances respecting their manners and customs, with the apparent intention of proving that they were so; other Romans also have done the same; and as we have no native writings to oppose to their assertions, (it being one of the maxims of the Druids that no written records should be kept, but that all knowledge should be committed to memory),^b consequently, the little that has been handed down to us concerning these supposed barbarians, comes from the suspicious pens of their conquerors. From this therefore, as our only source, we must draw; but let us quit the track of so many of the modern writers upon the subject, as have trod in the path of the Romans, only to show the dark shades of the picture; and may it be our part to

^a Expressed by the Britons, *Gur-tani*, from their being a people scattered far and wide. SEE CANDEN'S BRITT.

^b That the Druids were not ignorant of the use of letters, vide note (b) UNIV. HIST. Vol. XIV. p. 78.—also CÆSAR'S COM.—He also says they made use of the Greek characters, and the analogy of the words *Deru*, *Drus*, *Druid*, might almost lead us to give some credit to it.

examine well, as we proceed, the same authorities, in order to discover in their differing statements, something materially militating against the so general opinion, that the ancient Britons were comparatively to be regarded as ignorant, wild, and barbarous.

We will not here stop to insist upon the well known fact, that it was usual with the Romans to call all nations, except their own, barbarians; but we will proceed directly to the enumeration and discussion of a few material points, generally acknowledged as authentic, which may go a great way towards justifying us in venturing to reject as false, at least some part of the accusation. And, as of first importance, let us take into consideration the religion of the ancient Britons: of its rites and ceremonies we know not accurately any thing—they were ever wrapt in mystery; but we have received descriptions in Cæsar, Pliny, and other authorities, of its constitution;—so regular, an organization bearing the marks of such deep policy, that it is difficult to believe the Druidical shrine could be the fane of an ignorant race.

This formidable hierarchy possessed its pontiff or high priest, who presided over the great body of the priesthood, acting in regular gradation under him; the common appellation for the whole being *Druids*, a name derived, as we are told, from the word *deru*, signifying in the British or Celtic language an oak, like *drus* in Greek. Besides taking upon themselves all affairs appertaining to religion, the Druids possessed great authority in civil affairs; they were the deciders of all controversies, distributors of rewards, and inflictors of punishments, as well as the instructors of youth, especially those of the nobility; and, if we can give credit to the few maxims and rules attributed to this politic body, whoever peruses them should pause, and first weigh well the general state of mind and manners of Europe at the period, ere he

pronounces that they could belong to a people, whom even the so polished Romans ought with propriety to call barbarians. The learned Leland has, it is true, written (may we venture to say it?) what appears inconsiderately upon the religion of the Druids; and, among other things, represents them as believing in the divine virtues which they openly ascribed to the misletoe; he assumes, naïvely enough, that because they *appeared* to reverence it they really did so: but may we not, with equal probability, conclude a pious fraud in this case—something attractive and imposing upon the vulgar, whose gross perceptions required a tangible object for their reverence? With regard to their inculcation of the doctrine of a transmigration of the soul, granting it to be true, it furnishes only another argument that men, whose powers of mind were employed in such discussions, were not justly liable to epithets of contempt from those at least who professed to believe in, perhaps, the less philosophical doctrine of an Elysium. But the Druidical priesthood are accused of offering human sacrifices to their Gods, and the defence against this accusation is weaker; such horrors, however, rest very much upon the authority of Diodorus Siculus, a writer who, if not frivolous, is at least open sometimes to the charge of credulity: but it is not meant here to deny that the execrable rites might be acted in Britain at that time, as history assures us they were not confined to our island, and travellers and circumnavigators have borne testimony to the deed in modern times; yet we are disposed to suspect, that such relations have been at least exaggerated of a people, at that period, possessing their national poets, who, under the title of bards, struck the harp, and chanted the praises of heroic virtue, the song of victory, the lament of defeat, or the death of the hero.

To the humanizing powers of poetry were also added, it is affirmed, the persuasives of philosophy; as they are

represented by Strabo to have had certain recluse characters amongst them, called ‘*Ouatēis*,’ who gave up their days to study and the contemplation of nature. When these favourable points are considered,—and more might be brought in review, acknowledged by the same writers who have, notwithstanding, recounted such inconsistent practices,—surely we shall not hastily give credit to these last, and believe they existed among a people too to whom Cæsar does not refuse the meed of courage in the fight, and who made so good a stand against the force and military science of their Roman invaders; a science so superior to their own, though at the same time it is difficult not to allow them a considerable share, as Cæsar himself states a fact which he must be allowed to have known well, that they brought chariots and also cavalry to the combat. Now, can it be supposed that a people, who had the ingenuity to construct chariots and train horses in harness, could be so ignorant and brutish as to be destitute of habitations in the climate of England? yet Leland writes thus—“in reality the Romans at their descent here, found nothing that carried the appearance of a building; no not one stone upon another,” &c.^{1a}—Perhaps we might here let the question rest, for we are apprehensive of having dwelt longer than necessary upon the subject; yet, at the risk of being thought prolix, we cannot resist the inclination to add two or three more circumstances corroborative of our argument; and, indeed, from among the great number of strange incongruities in the accounts

a Leland's Itin. Vol. VIII. p. 23.—From their giving the name of towns to the woods which they chose for places of shelter, and which they fortified in time of war, we cannot reasonably conclude that they had no other places deserving that name to dwell in, when under no apprehension of an enemy. Who can believe that the twenty towns which Vespasian reduced under the emperor Claudius, as we read in Suetonius, were only woods thus fortified and fenced in? Part of Note (D) UNIV. HIST. Vol. XIX. p. 92.

given of our native Britons, we are only at a loss to select those which may appear most striking, and omit for the sake of brevity many more. Our argument, then, would appear to be strengthened by the universally acknowledged populousness of the country when first known to the Romans; the island being divided into seventeen independent states on this side the Tyne^a and thirteen to the north of that river. It may not be irrelevant to observe here, that, in looking over the list of these states, it appears evident their names are not properly of Celtic formation, but have been latinized and materially altered from the original sounds, or, which is not probable, that they were altogether given by the Romans. Be this as it may, the natives are allowed on all hands to have been numerous; and it has been seldom, if ever seen, that a community has become populous, without having attained to some degree of perfection in the arts conducive to the comforts of life. We have already had occasion to mention their mechanical ingenuity, shewn in the construction of chariots; we may here add, that their art could not appear less in forming vessels which, as we are informed, were sufficiently large and strong enough to cross the channel, for the purpose of trading with the inhabitants of the neighbouring coasts of Gaul.^b That they really had attained to some knowledge in another useful art, the most conducive to life, is further shewn by their using marl as a manure for the land: granting this to be a fact, and for it we have the authority of Pliny, to what a variety of conclusions, favourable to their great remove from barbarism, does it give birth! We shall, upon the strength of this, the more readily yield credit to the anecdote which tells so much to their praise, and so contrary to the barbarous manners of the age,—*the hospitable reception of the ship-*

^a Pomp. Mel. L. 3.

^b Univ. Hist. Vol. XIX. p. 76. Art. Britain,

wrecked Roman soldiers; their relieving them, and then sending them safely back to Germanicus in Gaul.

In the above inquiry and observations, we have laboured more; and have been the more diffuse, because conscious that the majority of authors, and those of the greatest reputation for learning, are in opposition to the opinion, which nevertheless we think is well supported by facts, and by the representations of eye witnesses and contemporary authors,—namely, that the ancient Britons could not be justly called barbarians with relation to the then state of Europe; for if the facts we have brought forward, from good authorities, be true, they are quite incompatible with others, which state that they were without habitations and clothing. If it should be observed, that we have done little more than expose inconsistencies, we may reply, it is perhaps as much as can now be done; and it is at least one step towards the truth, to shake the foundations of error. We will now turn our attention to that part of Britain more particularly the object of the present work.

At the period of which we have been treating, the present county of Lincoln, as we have before observed, formed part of the territory of the Coritani, and which, we believe, was as populous as the other states of the country, notwithstanding what has been suggested to the contrary; and we have in this case the learned antiquary Dr. Stukeley in favour of our opinion. The Doctor, describing the first known inhabitants of the parts of Holland, &c., thus writes,—“We may be assured that this whole country was well inhabited by the ancient Britons, and that as far as the sea coasts, especially the islets and higher parts more free from ordinary inundations of the rivers, or though not embanked above the reach of spring tides; for the nature of this place perfectly answered their gusto, both as affording abundant pasturage for their cattle

wherein their chief sustenance and employment consisted, and being so very secure from incursion and depredations of war and troublesome neighbours, by the difficult fens upon the edge of the high country."^a But, however worthy of their observation, this district might be, yet situate as it was, at a considerable distance from the point of Cæsar's attack, it did not, for a considerable time, come under the notice of the Romans;^b and, consequently, little information is conveyed down to us respecting it, until the reign of Claudius, nor indeed then, except in a scanty account of a revolt, in which the Coritani are supposed to have joined with the bordering tribes, called Icenæ and Trinobantes, and with them to have suffered a disastrous overthrow.^c With this exception, they are scarcely mentioned until the period when Junius Agricola was sent governor into Britain,^d when that able commander immediately began to construct military roads and canals, which were carried on as far as the most northern parts of the island; the latter intended for the conveyance of corn &c., from the southern settlements to the *Prætenturæ*, in Scotland, for the subsistence of the forces stationed there.^e The line of at least two of these great works, passing not far from the site of the present town of Sleaford, naturally come under our consideration. We shall first speak of the

HERMEN STREET.^f

In describing this road and its two branches, one of which passes at a short distance to the east of Sleaford, Dr. Stukeley

^a Itin. Cur. p. 5. ^b Archæologia, Vol. X. p. 9. ^c Tacitus' Ann. B. 14. 31.

^d Agricola was first sent into Britain. A. D. 59. he was made Legate about A. D. 70. STUKELEY'S MED. HIST. OF CARAUSIUS, p. 168. et seq.

^e Stukeley's Richard of Cirencester, p. 180.

^f So called, from its having been dedicated to Hermes.

has been very particular; and, as his work is in but few hands, we cannot, perhaps, do better than present the passages verbatim to the reader, only previously remarking, what is a rather extraordinary disagreement, that, in the account of the four principal Roman roads given in "Universal History," the compilers of that work state the name of this northern road to be the "*Ikenild Street*;" that "it led from Southampton to York, and from thence to Tinnmouth. *Ermine* or *Erminage Street*," as they term it, "reaching from St. David's to Southampton."^a Having mentioned this difference of opinion, in a work which is generally a good authority, we proceed to give to the reader Dr. Stukeley's account: he supposes that "when the Romans had made considerable progress, in reducing this island into the regular form of a province, and began the mighty work of laying down the great military ways, then it was, that they cast their eyes upon this fertile and wide extended plain (Lincolnshire), and projected the draining of it. In the reign of Nero, in all probability, they made the *Hermen Street*, as now called, by a Saxon word equivalent to the Latin *via militaris*. That this was the first, seems intimated by the name, in that it has retained '*κατ' ἐξοκην*,' what is but a common appellation of such roads.

"This noble work, taking in the whole of it, was intended to be a meridian line, running from the southern ocean through London, to the utmost bounds of Scotland. This may be inferred from the main of it, which runs directly north and south. And another argument of its early date, drawn from three remarkable particularities I have observed in travelling

^a Univ. Hist. Vol. XIV. B. 4. p. 115.—Referred to Barton Comment. in Itiner.

upon it, and which shew it was begun before that notable people had a thorough knowledge of the geography of the island. One is, its deviation westward, as it advances towards these fens from London; another is, the new branch, drawn a little beyond Lincoln, westward into Yorkshire, out of the principal stem going to the Humber; a third is, that it is double in Lincolnshire. Now, we will only consider such part of it as has relation to the country we are upon; and that is the road going from Caster, by Peterborough, to Sleaford in this county, which is undoubtedly Roman, and which first occasioned the draining of this fenny tract, and surely more ancient than that which goes above Stamford, and along the heathy part of the county, to Lincoln.^a My reasoning depends upon the manner of the road itself, and upon that other great work which accompanies it, called the *Cardike*, equally to be ascribed to the same authors. This road is nearer the first intention of a meridian line than the other; but, when they found it carried them through a low country, where it perpetually needed reparation, and that they must necessarily decline westward to reach Lincoln, they quitted it, and struck out a new one, more westerly, that should run altogether on better ground. This, if we have leave to guess, was done after the time of Lollius Urbicus, lieutenant under Antoninus Pius, who, with great industry and courage, had extended and secured the whole province as far as Edinburgh. Then it was, that they had time and opportunity to complete the work in the best manner, being perfect masters of the country, and of its geography: and this road was for the

^a The road here alluded to, as passing above Stamford, entered this county a small distance to the west of that town, and ran through Great Casterton and Acaster, thence to the west of Rauceby, Cranwell, Brauncewell, and Temple Brewer to Lincoln.

ready march of their armies and provisions, to succour those northern frontiers. But it seems as if they, long before that time, brought the *Hermen Street* as far as Lincolnshire, especially that eastern branch, or original stem, of which we are treating, and that as early as the reign of Nero, and at the same time made the *Cardike*. I shall give you my further reasons for this conjecture, and nothing more than conjecture can be expected in such matters.

“The road which we suppose the original stem of the *Hermen Street*, goes in a direct line, and full north and south from *Durobriva*, or Caster, to Sleaford; and there, for aught I know, it terminates.^a It is manifest, that if it had been carried further in that direction, it would have passed below Lincoln heath, and arrive at the river where it is not fordable. It parts from the present and real *Hermen Street* at Upton, a mile north of Caster; but this is continued in a straight line, which demonstrates that it is the original one: the other goes from it with an angular branching. This traverses the river Welland at West Deeping, and is carried in a high bank across the watery meadows of Lolham bridges. These are numerous and large arches, made upon the road, to let the waters pass through, taken notice of by the great Camden as of antiquity; and no doubt originally Roman: then it crosses the Glen at Catebridge, (whereabouts it is now called

^a It would appear from the above account of Dr. Stukeley, that he was of opinion this road did not extend beyond Sleaford; or, at all events, that he was not able to trace it any further than that town; but there are sufficient vestiges remaining to show, that it crossed the Sleaford navigation near Coggleford mill; went thence in a straight line over Sleaford and Leasingham moors; to the west of Ruskington, Dorrington, Digby, and Rowston; east of Blomholm and Ashby; west of Blankney, Metherringham, Dunston, Neeton, and Bramston; thence to Lincoln, where it joined the main road.

King's-Gate; *via regia*) to Bourn, (where Roman coins are often found, many in the possession of Jos. Banks, Jun. Esq.)^a so to Folkingham and Sleaford."^b

"The 18th of October, 1728, I travelled on the Roman road, the eastern branch of the *Hermen Street*, from Sleaford, for about three miles southward. I observed that it went not to Sleaford town directly, but to the old house of Sir Robert Carr, formerly Lord Hassey's (attainted for treason in the time of Henry VIII.) called *Old Place*. We saw by the way, on the east side of the road, a mile or more south of Sleaford, an old work, square, ditched about, large, with an entry from the road; the earth of the vallum thrown up on both sides.^c

"But it was not enough for the Romans thus to provide for commerce and travelling, without they set proper stations or mansions, for the reception of negotiators and the like. Accordingly, we find the distance between Caster and Lincoln, about forty miles, has two towns upon it, at proper intervals, for lodging; these are SLEAFORD and STANFIELD: the original names of them are in irrecoverable silence, but the eternity of the Romans is inherent. At Sleaford they have found many Roman coins, especially of the Constantine family and their wives, about the Castle and the spring head, a little above the town. It is probable that Alexander, the Bishop of Lincoln, built his work upon the site of a Roman citadel. Beside, at Sleaford comes in the other Roman road from the fen country by *Brig End Causy*, and at the intersection of

a Father of the late Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. of Revesby Abbey, in this county.

b *Itinerarium Curiosum*, p. 6 & 7.

c The *old work* here spoken of is about two miles from Sleaford, in the parish of Burton Pedwardine; for some account of which, see our description of that place.

these two roads the old town stood.^a At Stanfield, which is a little village near Bourn, they find daily the foundations of buildings, innumerable coins, and other antiquities. These are chiefly dug up in a close called *Blackfield*, from the extraordinary richness of the soil."^b

The other great Roman work before alluded to, passes by the town of Heckington, at the distance of about six miles east of Sleaford: it was probably designed both for a drain and a navigable canal; but here we will again have recourse to the authority of Dr. Stukeley for an account of the

CARDIKE or CAERDIKE.^c

"All along, parallel to the above road, runs a famous old drain, called *Cardike*. This is a vast artificial canal, drawn

a. There seems to be something here that is not altogether reconcilable to our ideas. The Doctor supposes, in a former part of this extract, the road from *Durobrivæ* or Caster (in Northamptonshire), to have come in a direct line, passing to the east of Folkingham, close by Threckingham, along Mareham Lane to a place called the *half-mile-gate*, thence it crosses the enclosures to the Boston road, taking its course along *Old Eau Lane*, a little eastward of the *Old Place*; but here he speaks of another Roman road coming in from the fen country, and that they intersected each other at Sleaford.—Now we are of opinion that cannot have been the case; but that the road coming by *Brig-end Causeway* crossed the above (or Hermen Street) at Threckingham, went thence to Cold Harbour, and so towards the Irish sea. But, as will be subsequently seen, two other roads are said to have met the original one at Sleaford, and it was doubtless at this junction that the Roman town stood.

For arguments in elucidation of the above, see also GENT'S MAG. Vol. LXI. p. 193

b. *Itinerarium Curiosum*, p. 9.

c. With regard to the etymology of this term there are various opinions. Dr. Stukeley, at one time, supposed it to be derived from the British word *Caer* (a city); but he afterwards changed his opinion, and ascribed it to *Carausius*, fancying it bore his name. Salmon, in his "Survey of England," says *Cardike* signifies no more than *Fen-dike*.

north and south upon the edge of the fens, from Peterborough river to Lincoln river, about fifty miles long; and by the Romans without all peradventure. It is taken notice of by Sergeant Callis, our countryman, in his readings on the sewers. That wise people, with a thought peculiar to themselves, observed the great use of such a channel, that by water carriage should open an inland traffic between their two great colonies of *Durobrivæ* and *Lindum*, or Lincoln, without going round the hazardous voyage of the Estuary. Besides, it is plain, that by intercepting all the little streams coming down from the high country, and naturally overflowing our levels, it would much facilitate the draining thereof, which at this time they must have had in view. This canal enters Lincolnshire at East Deeping, proceeding upon an exact level, which it takes industriously between the high and low grounds all the way, by Langtoft and Baston: passing the river Glen at High-bridge, it runs in an uninterrupted course as far as Kyme: beyond that I have not yet followed it, but I suppose it meets Lincoln river near Washingborough, and where, probably, they had a fort to secure the navigation, as upon other proper intermediate places, such as Walcott, Garrick, Billingborough, Waldram Hall, Narborough, Eye anciently Ege, *agger*; and I imagine St. Peter's de Burgo hence owes its original: and a place called Low there, a camp ditched about, just where the *Cardike* begins, on one side the river: another such fortification at Horsey bridge on the other side the river: all these names point out some ancient works. It is all the way three-score feet broad, having a large flat bank, on both sides, for the horses that drew their boats. Roman coins are frequently found throughout its whole length.

“ The 20th of October, 1726, I traced the *Cardike* round the outskirts of Sir William Ellys's park, of Nocton: it runs near the site of the old priory, whose ruins are just visible: it

bounds the park entirely on the fen side, and is very perfect thereabouts; the high country streams from Dunston, and others, running along it. We saw where it crossed a marshy valley, and reached the opposite high ground in its course to Washingborough.^a

These we believe are the most authentic accounts of the two most considerable works hereabouts, which are attributed to the Romans; and of these the road, to a great extent, is still very discernable. If we may likewise give credit to the conjectures of antiquaries, the site of the present town of Sleaford appears to have been the point where met two or three more roads, of Roman formation; one of which is supposed to have come from *Banovallum* (Horncastle), crossing the Witham by Chapel Hill; and another from Cambridge, Ely, and Wisbeach, by Spalding to Donington, and thence through Sleaford, proceeding to join the great *Hermen Street* at the point now called *Biard's Leap*,^b on the present road to Newark. But as these seem to rest nearly upon conjecture alone,^c we do not think it necessary to dwell upon them; and will only just observe, in passing, that it has been, perhaps, too much the custom to attribute every work of this kind to the Romans. The poor Britons, it would seem, could neither make a drain

a *Itinerarium Curiosum*, p. 7 & 8.

b. "A little further we come to a place, of no mean note among the country people, called Byard's Leap, where the Newark road crosses the Roman: here is a cross of stone and by it four little holes made in the ground: they tell silly stories of a witch and a horse making a prodigious leap, and that his feet rested in these holes, which I rather think the boundaries of four parishes: perhaps I may be too fanciful in supposing this name a corruption of *viaticus lapis*." STUKELEY'S *ITIN. CURIOSUM*, p. 86.

c That from *Banovallum* indeed, we have the good authority of an antiquarian for asserting, may be traced.

nor form a way for themselves, unaided by the all-powerful genius of Italy.

At length, however, these tyrannical instructors, between four and five hundred years from their first arrival, departed, and took their last farewell of Britain in the fifth century, sometime (for authors are not agreed as to the exact date) between the years 426 and 435, the Saxon Chronicle placing the event in the latter year.^a It is, perhaps, painfully interesting to investigate the ways by which it has pleased Providence to punish crime, or to bring about the moral and scientific advancement of mankind. By the irruption of the Romans into Britain, the natives paid dearly with their blood and lives, for a knowledge of the arts and sciences which that more polished people had brought to some perfection. The invaders had swept over the country like a mighty mass of waters, overwhelming and destroying: but their retreat had left behind the principles of fertility, and the seeds of that knowledge which have since grown luxuriant and flourishing, safe amidst civil commotion and the shock of war. If we seek the page of history for the fate of the hostile host, we shall there learn that, called away by imperious necessity, they went in their turn, unavailing, to oppose themselves against an overwhelming irruption, the scene of which was their own country, and which was destined to leave them little more than a name upon the face of the earth!

The Romans left the province, at their departure, completely drained of the young and able part of its population, which had been previously draughted off to supply the rapidly wasting

^a "A. D. 435. The Goths sacked the city of Rome; and never since have the Romans reigned in Britain—they reigned in Britain four hundred and seventy winters since J. Cæsar's invasion." SAXON CHRONICLE, English translation by Ingram, p. 12.

armies of their imperious masters; and the remaining inhabitants now found themselves totally defenceless against the inroads of the irritated tribes of the unsubdued parts of the island. It was in this emergency that they were rendered very material assistance by two Saxon brothers, named Hengist and Horsa, who, with their followers in number about three hundred, had landed upon the island, either accidentally, or attracted hither by curiosity or a spirit of martial enterprise: these leaders now recommended that an invitation should be sent to their countrymen for additional forces, in order to make a more effectual resistance to the enemy; and the proposal being complied with by the short-sighted Britons, a request for farther assistance was sent, and which was readily granted by a warlike people who had, probably, long been forming designs of depredation against the country: they accordingly joined the Britons without delay, and arrested the progress of the Picts and Scots, who had penetrated as far as the county of Lincoln; to these they gave battle, and obliged them to flee in great disorder.^a This event, so important in its consequences, and to these we will now briefly allude, took place about A. D. 450. The unfortunate Britons soon began to entertain suspicions, too well grounded, against their new confederates, whose constantly increasing numbers naturally awoke the fears of weakness—fears soon realized; and war, provoked or otherwise, commenced between them: the contest continued, attended with all the horrors of ancient warfare, with slight intermissions and varying success, until the year 560, when the triumphant Saxons terminated it by establishing the states commonly called the Saxon Heptarchy, but more correctly perhaps

^a Camden's *Britannia*, by Gibson.

Octarchy, as it appears there were eight of them.^a One materially exciting cause of animosity among mankind—a difference of religion—which had in this case subsisted, and had probably tended in a great measure to widen the breach, now began, though by slow degrees, to disappear; and the gradual conversion of the Saxons to christianity, at least weakened one object of hatred between the conquerors and the conquered, yet it was not until after the lapse of many years that its general profession took place.

Meanwhile, the restless, sanguinary spirit of war, ceased not to disturb the land; for the Saxons, victorious over the natives, now turned their jealous eyes upon each other, and a war of rivalry ensued, which endured for above two hundred years,—until the reign of Egbert, A. D. 800; at whose accession England began to enjoy a few years of comparative quiet. Our district, being part of the large kingdom of Mercia, had suffered no doubt under the general disorder of the times, as it then enjoyed, under the able Kenwulph, its share in the general tranquillity. But as to particulars of this period, which can properly become a part of this work, there are in fact not any: indeed the general records of the kingdom are most scanty;—the Druids afford us no light, for they kept no records; and the power of that hierarchy had first yielded, and then had totally disappeared before the powerful influence of the new religion of Christ; the mild and beneficial spirit of which, however we may feel and justly congratulate ourselves upon, the historian, nevertheless, must lament that its teachers and professors, who then alone held the pen of record, should have exercised it so little upon the passing events. The general thread of history however is sufficiently clear, that this state of peace, in Egbert's reign, did not continue to be long

^a Turner's Anglo Saxons, 3rd, edit. Vol. I. p. 309.

enjoyed;—he sustained an attack from the rash successor of Kenwulph, and the contest ended in the two kingdoms becoming in fact one. But now a new enemy appeared upon the coasts, who, under the denominations of Northmen and Danes, made inroads upon the country, and aimed at the overthrow of the Saxon states: they met with many reverses; and though driven back by the prowess of our revered Alfred, they persevered in their attacks, and at one period governed the country under Canute and his immediate successors.^a It was during these Danish invasions that, about eight miles south of Sleaford, a memorable battle was fought with them, A. D. 870, in which they lost many men, but for the particulars of the engagement the reader is referred to the article ‘Threckingham.’ This is the only material fact with which we are acquainted, at that period, particularly relating to our own district. The general disturbances of the island, among Saxons, Danes, &c., but which it is not necessary here to enter upon minutely, continued to rage with violence, and various success to the contending parties, until the year 1066, when the battle of Hastings, and consequent seizure of the throne, by William, duke of Normandy, was, perhaps, a fortunate event for a country worn out with intestine warfare. This event took place about six hundred years after the Romans had finally quitted the island. And here we will close this introductory part of the present work.

a As the following extract presents a picture of the times when Alfred was young, and while yet Ethelwulph possessed the throne, it is here inserted. “A. D. 852. About this time Abbot Ceolred of Medhamsted, with the concurrence of the monks, let to hand the land of Sempringham to Wulfred, with the provision, that after his demise the said land should revert to the monastery; that Wulfred should give the land of Sleaford to Medhamsted, and should send each year into the monastery sixty loads of wood, twelve loads of coals, six loads of peat, two tuns of fine ale, two neats’ carcasses, six hundred loaves, and ten kilderkins of welsh ale; one horse also each year, and thirty shillings, and one nights’ entertainment.” SAXON CHRONICLE, translated by Ingram, p. 93.

NEW SLEAFORD.

ETYMOLOGY OF THE NAME, AND PROBABLE ANTIQUITY OF THE TOWN.

PREVIOUSLY to entering upon a topographical sketch of this place,—for it must be borne in mind that it is only a sketch that is intended to be given of this town and its adjacent villages; correct indeed as far as it extends, but by no means professing to be a finished history,—it may be proper to notice the names by which Sleaford has been designated in the earliest records, and also to suggest, what appears to us to be the etymology thereof, and its true orthography. In Domesday Book, written by order of William the Conqueror, in the year (as Stow in his Chronicle tells us) 1080, it is called *Eslaforde*. In Testa de Nevill, written about the year 1270, *Lafford*. By Leland, who wrote about the year 1546, and ever since his time, *Sleaford* or *Sleaford*.

Before we proceed further let us notice the singular circumstance, that at the distance of nearly eight hundred years from the Domesday record, the only change in the name of this place, with the exception of the final *e*, which was common to most nouns, has been in the transposition of one letter; *e* being now placed after the letters *Sl*, instead of before them, viz. *Sleaford* instead of *Eslaforde*. With respect to the name *Lafford*, given to Sleaford in Testa de Nevill, it may be remarked that this history, relating chiefly to Feudal Tenures and Knights' Fees, &c., would be expressed, generally, in

legal language; and that, therefore, a sort of Anglo-Norman description at one time, and obsolete French terms at other times, would frequently occur;—so that *Lafford*, may mean nothing more than *la-ford*, i. e. *the ford*; or, as it is explained by another ancient writer, "*Lafford alias Le Sleford*."

The name of *Sleaford* may be fairly presumed to have arisen from the Saxon 'Slæb,' which means a winding road; so *Slæd-ford*, (dropping the letter *d* for the sake of the pronunciation), may be supposed to mean the *ford of a winding stream*; which etymology, the tortuous and meandering course of the stream will abundantly justify us in adopting: whence its true orthography ought to be *Slæford*, with a diphthong *æ*, and not *ea*, as it is at this time universally written.

The towns of New and Old Sleaford appear undistinguished in the earliest historical documents extant; for, both in Domesday and Testa de Nevill, mention is made of but one; as *Eslaforde* in the former, and *Lafford* in the latter: but whether under this one name was included both Old and New Sleaford, is uncertain. From the description given in Domesday of *Eslaforde*, that it had "a priest and a church, and eight mills," and the quantity of land, more than two thousand acres, it would seem that New Sleaford was intended, for it is certain this description could not have applied to Old Sleaford alone, which contains only about six hundred acres. Another convincing proof that New Sleaford was at least included, is the mention in Domesday, of three hundred and thirty acres of marsh land in *Eslaforde*, of which there is none in Old Sleaford. But with some people a difficulty seems to arise, from the circumstance of the church in *Eslaforde* being mentioned in Domesday so early as 1080; as if that account could not apply to New Sleaford, whose church is said, (but upon questionable authority) to have been built about the year 1270, nearly two centuries after the Domesday survey

was taken; yet it is believed, from architectural vestiges remaining in the west front, that this part, at least, of the church was built at a much earlier period; and not improbably before the time of Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, "who," as Leland tells us, "buildid and was resident in the castelle of Sleaford about the year 1100." From which we may infer, that there was a church on the site of the present one previous to the return in Domesday. Leland who wrote, as has been before observed, about the year 1546, although he particularly notices the house belonging to Lord Hussey, who was beheaded about ten years before that time, and in speaking of which he says, that it was "almost new buildid of stone and timbre," and that "it standith southeward withoute the towne;" and proceeds in saying "the towne nor market is of no price, the ornamentes of it is the Bishop of Lincoln's castelle, and the late Lorde Husey's house;" evidently makes no distinction between Old and New Sleaford,—for the Bishop of Lincoln's castle was in New, and Lord Hussey's house in Old Sleaford.

Although we now distinguish between them (and without doubt they were two distinct parishes long before the Domesday survey, and were each named after the *ford*, which is a feature common to both; for Old Sleaford had its ford, at the north end of *Eau Lane*,) and might be led to suppose one of them to be a town of modern date; yet it is believed, that even New Sleaford has claims to great antiquity; and that it obtained the name of *New*, not particularly from any great difference in the first formation of the two towns, but rather from the circumstance of the increasing population, and consequent rising importance of the one, which would render it in a manner a new town. A reason, and to us it is a convincing one, might be adduced to shew that the two Sleafords were always separate parishes; which is, that the distinction of Old and New is totally different from any thing

that occurs in this part of the country, for in the case of Rauceby, for instance, this *one* parish has its North and South town; Kyme the same; Leasingham and Kirkby, have each their North and South medieties; the two Hales, being one parish, are distinguished by Little and Great; and so may it be observed of almost every village included in this sketch, that the same parish is often divided, and distinguished by its north and south parts, by its little and great towns, by its thorp or hamlet, but never by the words old and new.

But it is to be noticed, that the addition of *New* to Sleaford is comparatively of modern date; for the distinction between the Sleafords first occurs in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, in the time of Henry VIII. about the year 1535, where we meet with *Lafford Vet.* and *Lafford Nova*; i. e. Old and New Sleaford. Most assuredly this could not have been a new town so recently as the date of this record; when, from the "eight mills" mentioned in Domesday, A. D. 1080, this town must even then have been a place of some importance as to population, when the aid of so many mills was required. On the whole the conclusion is, that the distinctions *Veteris* and *Nova*, have been used for civil and ecclesiastical purposes, and that New Sleaford has been, from before the time of William the Conqueror, a town of itself; and that Old Sleaford, although it formerly had a church, was never any thing more than what it is at present, a hamlet in the parish of Quarrington. And we likewise conclude, that under the name *Eslaforde* in Domesday, was included both the hamlet of Old Sleaford (which is but an inconsiderable place as to the quantity of land, and is so intimately blended with New Sleaford as to be unnoticed by inhabitants of many years standing), and also the parish of New Sleaford with its hamlet of Holdingham.

SLEAFORD, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST TO THE PRESENT TIME.

To those earliest records of the general state of Great Britain, which remain to us unimpaired even at this time, and to which, perhaps, it will be scarcely possible for us to add any thing interesting, we are indebted for all that we now know of the ancient state of this place. Among the first of these records, in point of time, stands that invaluable public survey, called Domesday Book. "This incomparable record of Domesday," as Mr. Kelham observes, "was begun by order of William the Conqueror, in the year of our Lord 1080, and completed in the year 1086. Commissioners were sent into every county, and juries summoned and empaneled in each hundred out of all orders of freemen, from barons down to the lowest farmers, to give in upon oath, to the commissioners, by verdict or presentment, due information for the faithful and impartial execution of it. These inquisitions being taken, they were sent up to Winchester, and the substance of them was afterwards methodised, and formed into the record which we now call Domesday, and deposited in the king's exchequer."^a From this book we transcribe the following passages, being all that it appears to contain relative to the place now under consideration.

"Land of the Bishop of Lincoln. Manor. In *Eslaforde* Bardi had eleven carucates of land to be taxed. Land to eleven ploughs. The Bishop has there in the demesne three

^a Kelham's "Domesday illustrated,"

ploughs, and twenty-nine villanes, and six sokemen, and eleven bordars having fourteen ploughs. There is a priest and a church, and eight mills of ten pounds, and three hundred and twenty acres of meadow, and one acre of coppice wood. Marsh, three hundred and thirty acres. Value in king Edward's time, twenty pounds, now twenty-five pounds."—"Soke in *Eslaforde*. There are two sokemen who plough with two oxen, and fifteen acres of meadow, and thirteen acres of coppice wood."

Bardi, whose name is mentioned in this extract, was a Saxon Thane or Baron, who, previous to the conquest, held not only the manor of Sleaford, but also those of Holywell, Carlby, Corby, and Quarrington in this county, together with some others in Rutlandshire; all of which, at the time of the Conqueror's survey, were of the fee of the bishop of Lincoln.^a

"Land of St. Benedict of Ramsey. In *Eslaforde* is soke of the manor of Quarrington, one carucate of land to be taxed. Land to one plough. One sokeman and two villanes have there one plough and twenty-seven acres of meadow."

From the circumstance of the abbot of Ramsey having a considerable quantity of land in the parish of Quarrington, when the above survey was taken, we may reasonably conclude that the latter extract from Domesday refers to Old Sleaford, and which was at that time, as we have before observed, nothing more than a hamlet to the said parish.

A few other explanatory remarks on the above passages from Domesday, may perhaps be acceptable to some of our readers. *Manor*,—*Manerium*;—seems to be the same as *Aula*, a capital messuage for the Lord to live in. *Carucate*;—said to be one hundred acres, six score to the hundred, but was more or less

^a Blore's Rutland.

according to the lightness or stiffness of the soil. *Eleven ploughs*;—or land sufficient to employ eleven ploughs. *Demmesne*;—the Lord's chief manor places, with the lands thereto belonging; which he and his ancestors have from time to time kept in their own manual occupation, for the maintenance of themselves and their families; and all the parts of a manor, except what is in the hands of freeholders, are said to be demains. *Villanes*;—bond servants, bound to serve their proprietor. *Sokemen*;—yeomen, being free of blood and fit for honourable service. *Bordars*;—small farmers, just above cottagers. *King Edward's time*;—this was king Edward called the confessor; he was the third king of that name before the conquest, and after reigning more than twenty years died January 4th, 1066, but a few months prior to William the conqueror's accession to the throne.

The next documents in point of importance and antiquity are, perhaps, those which relate to

THE CASTLE

of the Bishop of Lincoln, an ornament, in Leland's time (1546), to this town. This castle, as well as that at Newark, was built, as will be subsequently seen, soon after the commencement of the twelfth century, by Alexander, the third bishop of Lincoln, who, like his uncle Roger, the celebrated bishop of Salisbury, seems to have possessed a natural fondness for castle-building. But these stupendous edifices it appears were not proof against the attacks of king Stephen, who, in the time of the disturbances which took place between himself and the adherents of the empress Maud (daughter of Henry I. and true heir to the throne of England), becoming jealous of the increasing power of the said bishop of Salisbury, and willing to mortify him, issued an order for his attendance

at court, on pretence of making him answer to an outrage committed by some of his retinue. He in consequence attended, accompanied by Alexander, bishop of Lincoln, and the event of the interview was, that each of them was under the necessity of delivering up the keys of his castles to the king. Speed, the historian, says "Alexander was imprisoned till he had yielded up his castles of Newark and Sleaford." It is presumed however, that the above castles were soon restored to their rightful owners; for we find, from historical documents hereafter brought forward, that the castle of Sleaford was again in possession of the bishop of Lincoln.

Holinshed, in his Chronicle of king Stephen of Bolloigne, about the year 1140, and the fifth of his reign, speaking of the surrender of this castle, says, "After this he (Stephen) went to Oxford, where whilst he remained, a great brute (bruit) was spread abroad that the empress Maude was coming to England, with her brother the earl of Gloucester, which caused him to put the less trust in his people from henceforth; in so much that he began to repent himself (although too late), for that he had granted license to manie of his subjects to build castles within their owne grounds. For he had them all in suspicion; and among others, he vehemently suspected Roger, bishop of Salisbury (who had done verie much for him), and Alexander, bishop of Lincolne, nephew to the said bishop of Salisbury, or, as some thought, more near to him in kindred than his nephew, I meane his sonne. For the said Roger had builded divers castles, as at Sherborne, at the Teis, and at Malmsburie. The said Alexander, likewise, following his uncle's example, bestowed his monie that way verie freely, having builded one castle at Newarke, and another at Sleeford. The king therefore, having sent for these bishops, committed them to prison, and threatened to keep them there without either meate or drinke, if they would not cause the keys of their castles to be

delivered up to him as pledges of their fidelity, whereby he obtained them."^a

From the above extract we may infer, that the foundations of many of our ancient castles would be laid, and some completely erected, between the years 1135 and 1140, namely, after the death of Henry I. and previously to the sixth of Stephen; but we are inclined to believe that the castle at Sleaford, was erected in the time of king Henry I. though probably towards the latter part of his reign.^b

Again, we find it related of the first of Henry II. A. D. 1154, that "amongst other articles it was ordered that all those castles which, contrarie to all reason and good order, had been made and builded by any maner of persons in the days of king Stephen, should be overthrown and cast downe, which were found to be eleven hundred and fifteen."^c But it is clear that Sleaford castle escaped this general overthrow, and sweeping clause; for, more than fifty years afterwards, it was found to be in a fit condition to entertain king John on his journey; nay, even three centuries after this period, Leland writes, "Withoute the towne of Sleaford standith west south west the propre castelle of Sleaford, very welle mantaynid, and it is cumpasid with a rennyng streme cumming by a cut oute of a litle fenne, lying almost flatte weste againe it. In the gate-house of the castelle be 2 porte colices. There is an highe toure in the midle of the castelle, but not sette

^a Leland, speaking of this affair, says "*Rex inde rediens, Alexandrum episcopum quem dimiserat in captione apud Oxenfordiam, duxit secure ad Newarcam. Ibi quidem construxerat idem episcopus castellum super flumen Trentæ fortissimum et florentissimum. Indixit rex episcopo jejunium non legitimum, astruens, fide data, eum omni cibo cariturum, donec redderetur castellum.*" COLLECTANEA.

^b Vide *Magna Brittannia*, Vol. II. p. 1413. ^c *Holinshed's Chronicle*.

upon a hille of raised yerth. The vaultes of the-castelle by the ground be faire.”^a Here, then, we have a further reason for supposing the castle of Sleaford to have been built antecedent to Stephen’s reign, on account of its escaping the demolition in the time of Henry II.; and that, most probably, because it did not come within the range of that overthrow, as not having been erected under the authority of king Stephen’s act.

Of the sojourning of king John at this castle, the following is the best account we have been able to collect, and which we have no hesitation in giving at length. “King John in the year 1216, and of his reign eighteen, passing the washes, he lost a great part of his armie with horses and carriages, yet the prince himself with a few others escaped the violence of the waters, by following a good guide: but he was said to have taken such grief at the loss, that he immediately fell into an ague, the force and heat thereof, together with his immoderate feeding on rawe peaches and drinking of new cider increased his sickness so, that he was not able to ride, but was fane to be carried in a litter presentlie made of twigs, with a couch of straw under him, thinking him to have gone to Lincoln, but the disease still so raged and grew upon him that he was inforced to staie one night at the castell of Lafford, and on the next day caused himself, with great paine to be carried to Newarke, where he shortly after died.”^b

Another writer, speaking of this king’s short abode here, says, that it was “on the 14th of October, in the very breake of the day, that hee left Swynsted for the castle of Sleaford, beelnging to the bishop of Lincolne. There he was let blood, but so it happened that about this time, Hub. de Burgo and Gerard de Soting, being not able longer to abide the assaults

^a Itinerary, Vol. I. p. 27.

^b Holinshed’s Chronicle.

of Lewis^a and his complices, obtained of him truce, that they might send to king John for succour; which messengers, when they were come to Sleaford and hadde declared their case, that is, that except he would rescue them in the castle of Dover, the same must be delivered up to Lewis: his disease with grief conceived thereat increased much, so that on the next morning, he could scanty on horsebacke come to the castle of Newarke, which castle also belonged to the sayd bishop of Lincolne; in which place the sicknes so increased in the space of three or four dayes, that hee tooke the counsell of his confessor, and received the sacrament at the hands of the abbot of Croxton, and then hee made Henry, his eldest sonne, the heyre of his kingdome, causing all that were about him to sweare to him, and sent letters sealed with his owne seale, to all the sheriffes of Englande, and castle keepers, willing them to bee attendant and diligent to the sayde Henry. When these thinges were thus done, the abbot of Croxton asked him if hee should chance to die, where hee would have his bodie baryed; to whom the king answered and sayd, I commit my soule to God, and my bodie to St. Ulstane, and afterward, to wit, in the night which followed next after the feast of Saynt Luke, (October 19.) hee departed this life in the said castle of Newarke, from whom his servants taking all that was about him fledde, not leaving so much of any thing, worth the carryage, as woulde cover his dead carkase."^b

a The son of Phillip, king of France, whom the rebellious barons had requested to be sent over to their assistance, promising to make him king.

b Stow's Chronicle.—Leland, in his Collectanea, gives the following account of the last moments and death of king John:—"Johannes rex correptus febre apud Swineshed. Auxit ægritudinis molestiam pernisiola ejus ingluvies, qui nocte illa de fructu persicorum & novæ cicere, potatione nimis repletus febrilem in se calorem acuit fortiter & ascendit. Proximo die perrexit ad castellum de Laforde. Deinde pervenit ad castellum de Newark, ubi obiit anno dom. 1216, cum reg: annis 18.

Some historians have affirmed that the king died in consequence of poison, administered to him by a monk at the abbey of Swineshead; and a curious narration upon that subject, said to have been copied from an ancient MS., is inserted in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for March, 1785. Caxton's *Chronicle*, printed A. D. 1502, contains the same account. It is here subjoined, not that any degree of credit ought to be attached thereto, but by reason of its exhibiting a striking picture of the simplicity of the age in which it was written.

"The barons of Engelond had so huge partye and helpe thurgh Lowys the kynges sone of Fraunce, that kyng John wist not whider for to turne, ne gone; and so it felle, that he wolde have gone to Nichole,^a and as he wente thiderward he come to the abbey of Swyneshened, and ther he abode ij dayes; and as he sat at mete, he axed a monke of the hows, how meche a lof was worth that was set byfore hym at the table; and the monke seide that the lof was worth but an halfpenny. O! quod he, tho here is gret chepe of breed now, quod the kyng, and I may lyve, such a lof schal be worth ~~xxd.~~ or half yeer be agon. And when he had seyde this word, mych he thoghte, and oft tyme siked, and nome^b and ete of the breed, and seyde, be God, the word I have spoke, it schal be soth. The monke that stode before the kyng, was for this woord fol sory in herte, and thoghte rather he wolde hymselfe

mensibus 5. diebus 4. prid. Id. Octobr: Sepultus est Wygorn: Construxit monasterio de Bello loco. Moritus domui de Crokestona dedit terram decem librarum."

In another part of the *Collectanea* he says, "Anno 1216, Rex Joan, in monasterio de Swineshevid; quod est in provincia Holandiæ, intoxicatus est, ut dicebatur."

"Ad castellum de Laford hospitaturus perrexit, ubi maxima corporis peregrinatus molestia in crastino vix ad castellum de Newark equo vehente pervenit. Abbas canonicorum Croxtoniæ, peritiss: in phisica, medicus regia."

^a Lincoln.

^b took.

souffre pitous deth, and thoghte if he myghte ordeigne therefore some maner remedye. And anone the monke went to his abbot, and was schreven^a of hym, and told the abbot al that the kyng seyde, and prayed his abbot for to assoyle^b him; for he wold geve the kyng such a watsayll,^c that all Engelond schuld be glad thereof and joyfull. Tho yede^d the monke into a gardyn, and fonde a gret tode therin, and nome her up, and put her in a cuppe, and felled it with good ayll, and prickked the tode thurgh with a broche^e meny tymes, tul that the venyme come out in eche side in to the cuppe. And tho nome the cuppe and broght it before the kyng, and knelyng seyde, Sir, quod he, watsayll, for never dayes of youre lyf ne dronk ye of such a cuppe. Then begynne, monke, quod the king; and the monke dranke a gret draught, and toke the kyng the cuppe, and the kyng also dranke a gret draught, and set down the cuppe. The monke anon right went into the fermery,^f and ther dide anon, on whos soule God have mercy, Amen. And fyve monkes syngen for his soule speciallich,^g and schul while the abbey stant. The kyng aros up anon ful evyl at ese, and commanded to remove the table, and axed after the monke; and men told hym that he was dede, for his wombe was broke in sunder. When the kyng herd this tydyng, he commanded for to trusse, but al it was for noght, for his bely began so to swelle for the drynk that he drank, that he dide withinne ij dayes aftir in the castell of Newerk."

a confessed by him.

b to give him absolution.

c Watsayll, wassail, or wassel, a Saxon phrase used on drinking healths, literally signifying "your health;" from thence the bowl used on this occasion was called a wassel-bowl. John being descended from the Saxon race of kings, the monk's address on this occasion was peculiarly flattering, and may be supposed very pleasing to the king.

d Then went.

e A spit, or any sharp instrument. It is a French word.

f The infirmary. g Specially appointed.

Our readers, we trust, will pardon the digression here made in bringing forward the foregoing account; for, notwithstanding it may incur the censure of some, as being irrelevant to the subject in hand, we are of opinion it will not be generally considered otherwise than as an amusing tale. However, we now proceed to lay before our readers whatever other little matters we have been able to collect appertaining to the aforesaid castle; but by the way we will just take leave to observe, that, having had recourse to a variety of authors for that purpose, it should not appear surprising if we meet with incongruous and even contradictory accounts. The following translation of a passage in the "Hundred Rolls," taken in the third year of the reign of Edward I. (A. D. 1275), seems to militate against the statement given in Domesday, neither does it by any means concur with our opinion; yet, considering the respectability of the work from which it is taken, we do not think proper to reject it.

"William, the bastard son of William the Conqueror, first possessed the land, as a manor and mansion, where was situated the castle Lafford, then it came to William Rufus, who gave it to the church at Lincoln, by which it came to Robert Bloet, bishop of Lincoln, who was the first bishop that ever possessed this manor and mansion. But Alexander built the castle."

From this it would appear that there had been a mansion, or perhaps a castle, here prior to the time of Alexander, and which does not seem very improbable when the tempting inaccessibility of the site is taken into consideration.^a

^a "From Bourn to Sleaford fourteen miles, from Sleaford to Tattershall ten: upon this road, both at Bourn and Sleaford, have been Norman, and perhaps Saxon castles. And it is highly probable there was also some defence in the Roman times, for their road and dyke, as well as the residence of some

It is however certain, that, of the former magnificence of bishop Alexander's castle, nothing now remains, except a fragment of the wall on the north-east angle, about ten feet high, and of immense thickness. This portion of wall seems to have ably resisted the destructive hand of Time, as, during the period of *one hundred and five years*, it has evidently suffered but little; for the authors of "*Magna Britannia*," published in 1720, speak of the above castle as being at that time reduced to rubbish and ruins, and that nothing but part of a wall remained to shew where it stood. The annexed engraving will convey a correct idea of its present appearance; by which it will be seen, that the superincumbent weight of the wall has drawn it away from its perpendicular, and literally torn it from its foundation immediately above the surface of the ground,



The whole of the foundations may be easily traced, and the gateway clearly defined, as well as the double defence of a ditch and a moat.

The following extracts, drawn from various sources, and relating principally to the castle of Sleaford, will give the reader some idea of the wealth and civil power of the owners thereof.

of their people against the inroads of the Britons. Doctor Stukeley believed that Sleaford castle was built on a Roman foundation." SALMON'S NEW SURVEY OF ENGLAND, 1729.

"By an inquisition taken in the reign of Henry III. before Hugh de Vedastus, Alexander de Lafford, Robert de Hekinton, William the son of Jordan, Laurence de Howelle, Roger de Kelleby, William de Kelleby, Thomas of the same place, Philip de Ouneby, Michael de Thorp, Ely de Camer', and William Pylat, it appeared that the bishop of Lincoln held the whole of Sleaford of the king, in pure eleemosynary; and that Robert de Lafford held then the eighth part of a knight's fee^a of William de Morteyn, who held of the same bishop, of the ancient feoffment."^b

"At the above period, the fees of the bishop of Lincoln extended to the following parishes in this county, viz. Carlby, Corby, Loppinhorpe, Thurlby, Willoughby, Quarrington, Sleaford, Dunsby, Ringsdon, Hougham, Leasingham, South Rauceby, Gosberton, Surfleet, Wragby, Stretton, Ranby, Stainton, Ormsby, Cleethorpe, Kingerby, Worlaby, Elsham, Bigby, Stroxton, Kelby, Whetton, Goxhill, Grayingham, Messingham, Coates, Carlton, Riseholme, Dunholme, Melton, Ulceby, Langton, and Thorganby."^c

Another inquisition says, "that the bishop of Lincoln hath appropriated to himself the whole of the village of Sleaford, on the north side of the water, in burgage, which was accustomed to belong to the wapentake of Flaxwell."^d

"In the year 1322, the vicar of Lincoln, for certain reasons, was commanded to take immediate possession of the castle of the bishop of Lincoln, at Sleaford, with the appurtenances."^e

"In the same year, the king gave to Robert Darcy, the

a A knight's fee was estimated at twelve ploughlands: its value in the reigns of Edward I. and II. was £20, per annum. BLACKSTONE.

b Testa de Nevill, p. 217.

c Ibid. p. 207.

d Hundred Rolls.

e Originalia Exchequer.

custody of the castle of the bishop of Lincoln, at Sleaford, with the appurtenances."^a

"The bishop of Lincoln held Sleaford, with free warren,^b in the year 1326."^c

From the brief sketch thus attempted, relating to the manor and castle at Sleaford and their former possessors, who were bishops of Lincoln,—from the scattered materials thus brought together,—and from other sources, which were considered too prolix for insertion in this work,—we collect, that, on the removal, by a synodal decree, of the see of Lincoln from Dorchester to that city, in the early part of the reign of William the Conqueror, Remigius, a friend, a countryman, and a companion of the adventurous Norman, became the first bishop of Lincoln. We find also that his patron, who by his achievements had won for himself a kingdom, claiming in right of his conquest, among other things, the manor of Sleaford, presented it to Remigius, and through him to the church of Lincoln for ever. We further glean also, that on the death of Remigius another Norman bishop succeeded, who was also followed by a third Norman,—the renowned Alexander de Blois; who, in the reign of king Henry I., and about the year 1130, as we have before stated, built the castle of Sleaford, which was considerably repaired by William Alnwick, the twenty-third bishop of Lincoln,

a Hundred Rolls.

b "In the Saxon times every man was allowed to kill game on his own estate, but upon the conquest, the king vested the property of all the game in himself, so that no one could sport even on his own land, under the most cruel penalties, without permission from the king, by grant of a chase or *free warren*. By this the granter had an exclusive power of killing game on his own estate, but it was on condition that he prevented every one else." PENNANT'S JOURNEY FROM CHESTER TO LONDON.

c Originalia Exchequer.

sometime between the years 1436 and 1449. And we learn from Browne Willis, under the head of the endowment of the see of Lincoln, that in the year 1534, 26 Henry VIII., this manor of Sleaford was valued at £52. 7s. 4d. per annum.

It appears that every bishop of Lincoln, from the days of Remigius, till the beginning of the reign of Edward VI., A. D. 1547, was continually seized of this manor; but that then, Henry Holbeach, bishop of Lincoln, did alien the same to the duke of Somerset, by whose attainder, in the time of the said Edward, this castle and manor came to the crown. It is likewise seen, that queen Mary granted to her admiral, Edward Lord Clinton, this manor and castle, and that the same were sold by the Lord Clinton to the grandfather of Sir Robert Carr; through whose family the property has descended to the earl of Bristol.

It is not satisfactorily ascertained in what year the castle was taken down; some have supposed it to have been destroyed in the time of Oliver Cromwell, but this supposition is decidedly founded in error, since we find in a grant from a Mr. Carr, in the year 1604, this expression, "the late fair castle at Sleaford," which clearly shews that it was not then standing, and consequently it could not have been in existence in the Protector's days.—The probability appears to be, that soon after the purchase of the manor and castle of Sleaford, by the beforementioned grandfather of Sir Robert Carr, the said building was taken down; most certainly it ceased to be between the years 1560 and 1604.

Tradition says that the *George* and *Angel Inns* were built out of the materials of the castle, and we are half inclined to support the assertion: from the circumstance of Leland mentioning the castle as being standing when he travelled, and his silence respecting the inns, we may reasonably conclude that the latter were not in existence at that time, but were

most probably built very soon after. Certain it is, that the very foundations of the walls have been dug up, either for building or other purposes.

The following description of the town, in the time of Henry VIII., is certainly no ways flattering, but, by reason of its antiquity, is sufficiently interesting for insertion here.

"The towne of Sleford is buildid for the most part al of stone, as most part of al the townes of Kesteven be, for the soile is plentiful of stone.

"The Chirch of Sleford is large, and for houses in the towne I markid but 2 very faire, the one longith to the personage as a prebend of £16. yn Lincoln, and standith at the est ende of the chirch;^a and Carre House standith at the south side of it.^b

"The house or manor place, lately almost new builded of stone and timbre by the Lorde Husey, standith southeward withoute the towne.

"The chief spring of Sleford water risith a litle from Roseby village, about a mile by west from Sleforde."^c

"Sleforde towne nor market is of no price: the ornamentes of it is the Bishop of Lincoln's castelle, and the late Lorde Husey's house."^d

A few years previous to the time in which the above account was written, a nobleman who resided at the *Old Place*, in the hamlet of Old Sleaford, and who is known by the title of Lord Hussey, being strongly attached to the

a It is supposed that the house lately pulled down, opposite to the Waggon and Horses, was the same as is here referred to.

b Carr House was taken down in the year 1822, and the materials thereof were worked up in the erection of the chapel to Carr's hospital.

c Leland's Itinerary, Vol. I. pp. 27 & 28. d Ibid. Vol. VII. p. 36.

mode of faith of his ancestors, and consequently highly discontented at the innovations made by Henry VIII., conspired with many others against them, being urged on by several of the clergy to a desperate undertaking, which in the end proved to them very unfortunate. The particulars of the catastrophe, as far as they relate to the Lord Hussey, will be found under the head of Old Sleaford, and it is merely alluded to here, *en passant*, as the only event of any consequence, with which we are acquainted, until the reign of Charles I., when, in the civil commotions, during and immediately after that reign, Sleaford and its vicinity again became a scene of warfare: the town appears to have been selected as one of the rallying points for the army of the parliament; and, judging from the number and respectability of the persons in these parts, who were indicted at Grantham, in the year 1643, for high treason, the Protector must have had a very strong party here, who were induced, either through fear or inclination, to join their fortunes with him. We might here insert a list of the names of those partisans then residing and possessing property here, many of whom, at that turbulent period, declared no doubt conscientiously for the cause of the parliament, while others chose to remain neuter, compounding in considerable sums for their quiet; but these names, thinking it cannot now answer any good purpose to retard their sinking to oblivion, we judge it proper to omit. It is not for us, while recording the small part taken by this district in great public occurrences, either to join in the little exultations of a successful party, or to lament over the reverses of the other.

In reference to the above disturbances, we find in the "Cromwelliana," the following paragraph, which appears to have been written in the beginning of December, A. D. 1643.—"The earl of Manchester's forces, with colonel Cromwells, are about Sleaforth in Lincolnshire; I hope they are

considering of another victory, and how to give Henderson a second part of a routing."

In the Bodleian Library, at Oxford, are preserved two original letters of Oliver Cromwell; one of them, a copy of which is here inserted, is written from Sleaford, and doubtless in the year aforementioned.

"Sir, wee doe with grieffe of hart recent the sadd condition of our armie in the west, and of affaires there. That businesse hath our hartes with itt, and truly had wee winges wee would flye theither. Soe soone as ever my lorde and the foote sett mee loose, there shall be noe want in mee to hasten what I cann to that service; for indeed, all other considerations are to bee layd aside, and to give place to itt, as beinge of farr more importance. I hope the kingdom shall see that in the middest of our necessities wee shall serve them without dispute. Wee hope to forgett our wants, which are exceedinge great and ill cared for, and desier to referr the many slaunders heaped upon us by false tongues to God, whoe will in due tyme make it apeare to the world, that wee studye the glory of God, the honor and libertye of the parliament, for w^{ch} we unanimously fight, without seekinge our owne interests. Indeed, wee finde our men never soe cheerfull as when there is worke to doe. I trust you will alwaies heere soe of them. The Lorde is our strength, and in him all our hope. Pray for us. Present my love to my freinds. I begg their prayers. The Lord still blesse you. Wee have some amongst us much slow in action. Iff wee could all intend to our owne ends lesse, and our ease too, our businesses in the armie would goe on wheelles for expedition. Because some of us are enimies to rapine and other wickednesses, we are sayd to be factious, to seek to maintaine our opinions in religion by force, w^{ch} wee

detest and abhorr. I professe I could never satisfie my selfe of the iustnesse of this warr, but from the authoritye of the parliament to maintaine itt in itt's rights, and in this cause I hope to approve my selfe an honest man, and single harted. Pardon mee that I am thus troublesom. I write but seldom; itt gives mee a little ease to poure my minde, in the midst of callumnies, into the bosom of a friend: Sr, noe man more truly loves you than

"Your Brother and Servant,

"OLIVER CROMWELL."

"Sept. 6 or 5th, Sleaford.

For Colonel Walton, theise in London."

From the following extract, the king's party appears to have hitherto had the ascendancy in these parts. "The news out of Lincolnshire is, that the cavaliers have prevailed very much in that county, and having taken captain King and colonel Savill prisoners, a commission of *Oyer et Term.* was obtained, to proceed to trial against them; and that they sat upon the same commission at Ancester (*Ancaster*), sixteen miles from Lincoln; whereupon the Lincoln forces were drawn out and marched towards Ancester; but in the way the cavaliers lay in ambuscade, when they were within six miles of the place, and falling suddenly upon them, they were forced to retreat back to Lincoln, with the loss of five or six of their men: but since colonel Cromwell's coming that way, the cavaliers have drawn most of their forces together towards Newark."^a

^a Cromwelliana, folio edition, p. 4,

The parliamentary army appears to have remained here but a short time, as it is stated to have left Sleaford prior to the thirteenth of January, 1644, at which time we find the following was written.—“It is reported, that the Newark cavaliers have surprised three of colonel Cromwell's troops of horse, which he left behind him about Sleaford in Lincolnshire, to secure those parts of the country, since his coming with the rest of his horse to Bedford: and it is said, that they were taken while they were sleeping in their beds.”^a

There does not appear to be any thing remaining on record, whereby to judge of Sleaford and its neighbourhood partaking in the troubles of the times, after the beginning of the year 1644; when we find, that, “after the battle of Newark, between the parliamentary forces and the royalists, in which the former were defeated, the garrisons of Gainsborough, Lincoln, and Sleaford, were quelled by the parliamentarians.”^b

At the commencement of the eighteenth century, Sleaford was *not* honoured by becoming the scene of what was termed, by one of the actors therein, a Religious Conference between himself and a quaker. This curious dispute, which was continued to a great length, the account of the same forming of itself a volume, was held by permission in the town-hall; and two gentlemen, then acting in the commission of the peace, rendered the affair the more imposing by their presence. The whole conference^c being too long to insert, we must confine

^a Cromwelliana, p. 8.

^b Baker's Chronicle, p. 533.

^c The reader who may wish to peruse the whole of the conference, is referred to the work, entitled “A narrative of the Conference at Sleaford in Lincolnshire, between Francis Bugg and Henry Pickworth, August 25, 1701, &c. by Francis Bugg. Printed for the Author, and sold by John Tayler at the Ship, and R. Wilkins at the King's-head, in St. Paul's church-yard. 1702.”

ourselves to the following record, signed by these worthy magistrates, which will suffice to shew the spirit of the times, and to what a state of heat and blind vindictive temper the minds of men were still wrought, even so lately as A. D. 1701! a state from which they have been gradually emancipating by the united powers of education and the diffusion of letters by the press, and to which Heaven forbend mankind should by any combination again revert.

“ March 11, 170 $\frac{1}{2}$. We whose names are hereunto subscribed, being two of his majesties justices of the peace, for the parts of Kesteven, in the county of Lincoln, do testify, that being at a conference at Sleeford, Aug. 25, last past, between *Mr. Fran. Bugg* and *Hen. Pickworth*, a quaker of that town, Mr. Bugg did produce several books, wrote by the quakers, to prove those pernicious and antichristian principles which he had charged them with in several books printed by him, which he did to the great satisfaction of the auditors, by fairly and openly reading the quotations out of the said quaker authors; nor did the quakers then present deny, but that the books which Mr. Bugg produced, were wrote by their own people, and fairly printed, except one which was written by one *C. Atkinson*; but it was fairly proved and owned by some of them, that it was written by him when he was a quaker. After some hours dispute, Mr. Bugg having made good his charge against them, we did, in abhorrence of their base principles, pursuant to an agreement under their hands in print, order two of the quaker's books, in which were very scandalous expressions, and directly contrary to the fundamentals of christianity, to be burnt in the market-place, (which books were produced by Mr. Bugg, but wrote by the quakers), and they were accordingly burnt in the presence of many people; and indeed several others of the quaker books

deserved the same fate, but we thought in destroying them all, we should prevent Mr. Bugg from detecting their pernicious doctrines, and defending himself against the quakers, which consideration preserved them; for there were very mischievous principles contained in most of them: in witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands the day and year abovewritten.

"EDW. PAYNE.

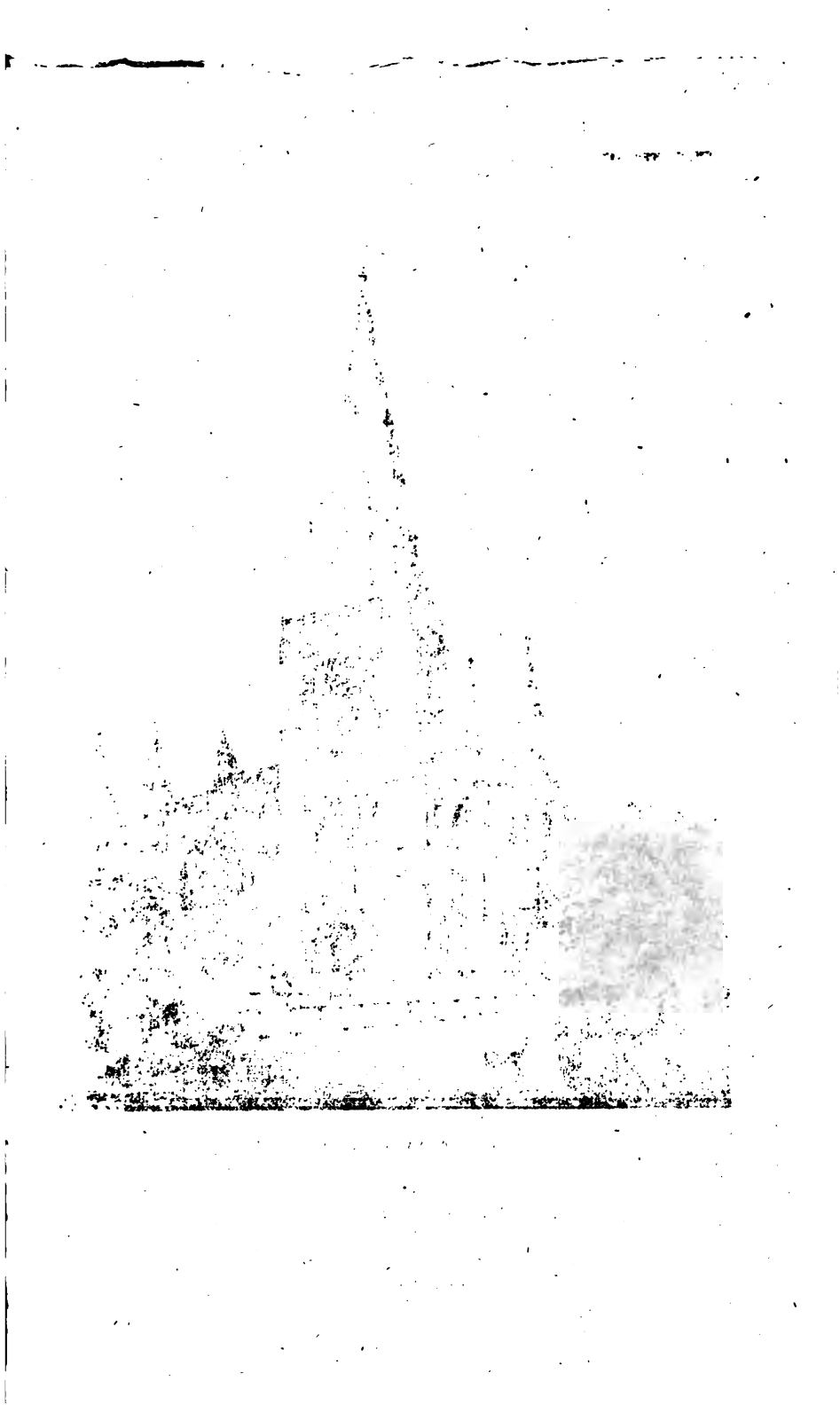
"ROBERT CAWDRON."

We have thus given a brief historical sketch of New Sleaford, and touched, in chronological order, upon the most remarkable circumstances connected therewith, from the days of William the Conqueror, to within a century of the present time. Whatever has since taken place worthy of notice, as well as the improvements, &c., which the town has recently undergone, the reader will find descanted upon in our **"Modern Account."**

THE CHURCH AND OTHER SUBJECTS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

THE Church of Sleaford is a spacious and venerable edifice, well constructed of the fine stone with which the neighbouring parts of the county abound, and exhibiting in its architecture that luxuriant variety of style which the ancient builders of churches delighted to bestow upon their works; preferring it to the strict adherence to regularity, which hangs like a spell upon the imaginations of their timid imitators of the present day.

The steeple is much the oldest part of the building, and though not remarkable for loftiness, or elegance of proportion, in which particulars it must not be brought in comparison with the spires of Grantham, Louth, Newark, or even of some churches in the immediate vicinity of Sleaford, is, nevertheless, one of the most complete examples in the kingdom of a stone spire of so early a date; and, consequently, becomes interesting in the history of architecture. The arches of the windows, &c., vary in shape, some being semicircular, others pointed, and one or two containing more than half a circle in their curve; these, and the general style of ornament, correspond to attested specimens of the architecture of the twelfth century, when the Saxon or Norman style, with its circular arches, began to give place to what we usually call the Gothic style. The erection of this steeple has been attributed by conjecture to Alexander, bishop of Lincoln; and so far with probability, that the architecture is undoubtedly of his age, and that this





Drawn & Engraved by R.L. Wright.

SLEAFORD CHURCH.

Published by J. Gossney, Sleaford, 1825.



manificent prelate was a great builder, and, as has been before stated, erected a castle at Sleaford for his own residence.

The spire is remarkably broad, the base of it being square, and covering the walls of the tower, without any surrounding parapet or battlements. This was the earliest form of spires, and is found in several examples of later date than this at Sleaford: afterwards the spire became narrower at its base, and bolder in elevation, as successive efforts gave more confidence to the builders, until at length a degree of sublimity was attained which has never been equalled in modern times. How far the more ancient fabric of the church corresponded with the tower cannot be known, the other parts having been entirely rebuilt in a very different style. A statement has been published, and said to have been taken from a manuscript found in the church chest; setting forth that the church was built in the year 1271, by Roger Blount and Roger Brickham, of Sleaford, merchants; and that it was endowed in the year 1277, and dedicated^a to St. Dennis.^b No such document can now be found, and the record has certainly been interpreted more extensively than its true meaning warranted. Those merchants might found some chantry or chapel, attached to

^a "As to the consecration of churches, we find the Jews had their *Encenia*, or Feasts of Dedication of their Temple. JOH. X. 22. MACCAB. IV. 59.

"But there was no dedication of our christian churches to saints, until praying to saints was in use; and after churches began to be dedicated to saints, their dedication feasts were usually kept on that day, which was the feast-day appointed in the calendar, for commemoration of that saint to whom such church was particularly dedicated. This time was called with us *The Wakes*, for waking, as the Latin word *Vigilæ*, or *Vigilando*, because at such times the people prayed most of the night before such feast-day in the churches." ANTIQUARIAN REPERTORY, Vol. II. p. 425.

^b See "A Selection of Views in Lincolnshire, with Topographical and Historical Accounts, by Bartholomew Howlett." In this work are two views of Sleaford church, with short descriptions of the church and town.

the church; but its architecture furnishes abundant evidence that the rebuilding was carried on from an early part of the fourteenth, to some time in the fifteenth century. The west front is viewed to great advantage from the square where the markets are held, and presents a singular and picturesque composition of architecture. The tower occupies the centre, in which the original design remains unaltered, with the exception of one window in front, inserted probably at the time the church was rebuilt. The north aisle is lighted by a large window, filled with beautiful ramified tracery, beneath which is placed an arched door under a pointed gable. The western window of the south aisle is of less size and richness than that of the north aisle. It has also a door beneath it, which is remarkable, very few parochial churches having more than one entrance at the west end. The stair-turrets at the north and south terminations of the front, the parapets, and the two open tabernacles over the windows,^a are all beautifully decorated in the style of the fourteenth century.

The exterior of the church, in the aisles, chancel, and a transept projecting on the north side, exhibits the same style as the west front, and many of the windows are uncommonly rich and elegant in their tracery. The upper story is of later style, and admirably light and beautiful. Two windows are placed over each of the principal arches which support the sides of the nave, above which the parapets are embattled, and thickly set with pinnacles. The flattened arches of these windows refer them to the fifteenth century, this part of the fabric being the latest part of the work.

a These tabernacles were anciently furnished with two small bells; one is yet remaining, and was used, within memory, on market days, to give notice to Hucksters of the time when they might begin to purchase.

Withinside, this fine church has, like most others, been much interrupted by the erection of galleries, close pews, and partitions, which have been contrived for accommodating the congregation with more convenience, but with very little regard to architectural beauty. The tower, in particular, is sadly blocked up by a chamber built under the vaulted roof, which ought to be open to the nave of the church.^a This chamber was put up for the use of the ringers, when ringing changes on peals of bells became fashionable; bells being formerly rung by men standing on the ground-floor.

The nave is supported by four pointed arches on each side, which spring from light clustered columns. Its breadth, taken together with the aisles, is sixty-four feet within the walls: the height about forty-eight feet to the roof, which is divided into pannels by moulded beams and rafters, ornamented at their intersections by knots of carving. The north transept originally formed a separate chapel, with an altar: in later times it has been used for a school-room. The chancel has no aisles, but on the north side is a room supposed by some antiquaries to have been built for a chantry chapel, but more probably designed only for a sacristy or vestry, to which use it has been restored, after having been long abandoned to the dismal occupation of a charnel house. Within this room is an old chest, curiously carved in front, with the portrait of a bearded man, and the initials R. I. above.

a The magnificent steeple of Louth church, had been for a long time disfigured by a similar obstruction, which has been lately taken away, and the arched roof within the tower laid open to view, as the original builders had left it. Newark is still suffered to remain thus blocked up by a modern chamber. At Boston, the arched roof, which is amazingly elevated, appears never to have been completed; and a wooden ceiling shuts it out from view.

The east end of the chancel is inscribed,

*Orate pro a't'ab Ricardi Dokke, & Johanne uxoris, ejus
Joh'is filii eorum, & o'ium benefactorum, quorum
a't'ibus propitiatur Deus, A'no M^{CCC}·XXX.*

by which the date of its completion is recorded. Richard Dokke was probably a merchant, as his rank would have been noticed had he been a knight or even an esquire.

On the south side of the chancel are three stone stalls under flowered arches, with pinnacles between, where the priest with his assistant deacon and subdeacon used to sit occasionally, whilst the choir were singing. The adjoining recess contained the chalices and other vessels used at the altar. The eastern window of the chancel is almost entirely concealed by a screen of wainscot, originally designed by the celebrated architect, Sir Christopher Wren, and put up in Lincoln Minster, when that church was repaired, after the restoration of king Charles II. Its ornaments are totally at variance with the architecture of the church, being composed of the Corinthian order, according to the Italian proportions.^a In the centre is a fine painting by Annibal Carracci, of the Infant Jesus and John the Baptist; which was presented, in the year 1820, to the Rev. Richard Yerburch, D. D. vicar of this church, by the late Rev. George Thorold, A. M. vicar of Rauceby, for the purpose to which it is applied.

The roof of the chancel is ceiled with pannels of wainscot, formerly painted with various colours, of which some remains were left a few years back. In Hollis's Church

^a This screen was removed from its place in Lincoln Minster about sixty years back, when a new altar-piece of stone was erected, after a design by James Essex, Esq. the first modern architect who revived a correct taste in the Gothic style.

Notes the following arms are recorded as existing in his time.

In tabulis tecti cancelli sæpius.

G. a lyon rampant regardant, Arg.

G. 3 bendlets, or,

G. 3 goats' heads, erased, arg.^b

The chancel is separated from the nave by an elegant screen, of open fret-work, supporting a beautifully carved canopy, over which stood the ancient rood-loft.^c The stairs by which this loft was ascended yet remain, but are blocked up at the bottom by two monuments of the Carr family. The uncommon beauty and perfect preservation of this screen and loft, have induced us to have a drawing made and an engraving taken therefrom, for the gratification of those who cannot enjoy a sight of the original.

During the civil wars in the seventeenth century this church was despoiled of its organ, brass eagle, and some other ornaments, but, altogether, escaped with less injury than many churches suffered.^d

a These Notes were taken about the year 1640, by Mr. Gervase Hollis, a native of Great Grimsby, and a representative of that place in several parliaments.

b Harleian MSS., Brit. Museum, No. 6829, p. 288.

c The rood-loft had its name from the rood or crucifix, anciently set up in the middle of it. Here some of the lessons, and other parts of the liturgy, used to be sung, before the change of religion. Very few of the ancient rood-lofts remain perfect in parochial churches, strict injunctions for their demolition being issued in the first year of the reign of queen Elizabeth.

d Vide Magna Britannia. The present organ was built by Green of London, in the year 1772, and cost £300. It was given by Mr. Edward Evans, who lies buried at the east end of the church-yard, having a plain slate stone, with the

From Hollis's Notes we learn that the following arms were anciently painted in the windows of the nave.

Fenestree navis.

Empaled. { Or, a plaine crosse vert.—*Hussey.*
 { G. a chevron betw. 10 cinquefoiles arg.—*Barkley.*
 B. on a chief, or, a demi lyon rampant, G. a border, arg.—
Mareham.

Quarterly. { B. 3 crownes, or.
 { Arg. a crosse patonce, sa.

Sa. 3 shuttles, or.

G. a crosse patonce, arg.

G. a crosse patonce, ermyne.

B. 2 chevrons, or. between 3 roses, arg.—*Russel, Episc. Linc.^a*

The font, of an hexagonal form, with its pillar or shaft ornamented on every side with bold and elegant gothic tracery, and its summit decorated, alternately, with oval and diagonal shields, having an ancient hexagonal cover of wood, with corresponding ornaments, stands at the west end of the north aisle. The steps, on which the font is placed, are modern, which may be accounted for by the circumstance of the font having been removed a few years ago, to give room for two or three additional pews. The shape and form of

following inscription, which deserves to be preserved to the memory of so liberal a benefactor.

HERE lies the body of Mr. EDWARD EVANS, interred January 24th, 1780, Aged 58 Years.

He was Surgeon to his Majesties ship the Egmont, and after a successful voyage from America (being a patron of the musical science), he gave an Organ to this parish church in the year 1772.

a Harl. MSS., No. 6829, p. 288.

the fonts noticed in this sketch greatly differ, but the octagonal form will be found to be by far the most common; and it is by no means improbable this has arisen from the recommendation of St. Ambrose, over the font of St. Tecla at Milan, in the following lines:—

“ *Octachorum sanctas templum surrexit in usus.*

“ *Octagonus fons est, munere dignus eo.*

“ *Hoc numero decuit sacri baptismatis anlam,*

“ *Surgere, quo populis vera salus rediit.*

“ *Luce resurgentis Christi, qui claustra resolvit*

“ *Mortis, et a tumulis suscitet examines.*”

It appears from the notes of Mr. Hollis, that there were formerly the following monumental inscriptions, &c., existing in this church, not a vestige of which, except the last one mentioned, is now remaining.

Tumulati in cancello.

Here lyeth the body of Richard Baller, Priest, who deceased the 21st day of August, 1540.

Hic jacet Rob'tus Bayt, Vicarius, qui obiit 30^o die Maii, A'no D'ni 1553.

Hic jacet Jo'hes Godfray, Vicarius, qui obiit 25^o die Julii, Anno D'ni 1539. Cujus a'i'æ, &c.

In navi eccl'ie.

Here lyeth Rob't Tymberland, butcher, & Alianor his wife, wth Robert deceased y^e 11th day of May, 1552.

Here lyeth Gilbert Handson, fishmonger, who dyed 27th of January, 1556.

Here lyeth James Clyfton, draper, & Alice his wife, which James deceased y^e 10th day of July, 1528.

Tumulus sup solum.

Hic jacet Georgius Carre & Anna uxor ejus, qui quidem Georgius obiit A'no D'ni 1521.

Tumulus alabastrinus juxta cancellum.

Hic jacet Rob'tus Carre, filius Georgii Carre, qui obiit 11^o die Sept. A'no D'ni 1590.

Elizabetha prima conjux filii Willi' Cawdron p' quam Georgius, Rob'tus, Will'us, & Edwardus, masculi; Elizabetha, Anna, & Brigida, femene,

Anna 2da uxor, filia Georgii Tailboys militis, relicta Ed'r'i Dymoke militis, p' quam nulla soboles.

Anna 3tia uxor, filia Caroli Knivet, relicta Robinson & Leonardi Irby.

Georgius, Rob'ti filius, duxit Mariam filiam Ambrosii Sutton, per quam Rob'tus & Elizabetha.

Rob'tus filius Rob'ti, duxit primo Elizabetham filiam Henrici Comitis Wigornien's, relictam D'ni Grey de Wilton, secundo Cassandram filiam Willi' Asprice Huntingd'.

Will'us filius Rob'ti, duxit Brigidam filiam Joh'es Chaworth, militis,

Edwardus filius Rob'ti, duxit Catharinam filiam Caroli Bolle,

Elizabetha filia Rob'ti, nupta primo Will'o Fairefax, 2do Christophero Kelke,

Anna 2da filia, nupta primo Rob'to Whichcote, 2do Rob'to Legard.

Brigida 3tia filia Rob'ti Carre, Ricarde Rosseter desponsata.

Insignia sup. tumulum predictum.

Quarterly. { G. on a chevron, arg. 3 mullets, sa.—Carre.
Or, an orle, B.—Balliol.

Carre's crest, a stagge's head couped, arg. attired, or, about his neck 2 bars gemelles, G.

Arg. a chevron betw. 3 martlets, on a chiefe, sa. 3 crosse crosselets, or.—*Cawdron*.

Arg. a saltire, on a chiefe, G. 3 scallops of the first.—*Tailboys*.

Arg. a bend and a border engrailed, sa.—*Knyvet*.

Or, on a chevron betw. 3 annulets, G. 3 crescents of the first.—*Sutton*.

Arg. in a fesse France & England, a border gabony, Arg. & B.—*Somerset Comes Wigorn*.

14 closets, arg. & Gules, 3 martlets in triangle, sa.—*Chaworth*.

B. 3 bolles, or. jesant boare's heads, arg.—*Bolle*.

Sa. a bend betw. 2 cottises flewry, arg.—*Kelke*.

Ermine, 2 sengliers trippant, G.—*Whichcote*.

Arg. on a bend, sa. 3 chaplets of the first.—*Rossiter*.

Sup. crucem hinc inde.

A saltier betw. 4 roundels, 1575.

There are now several monuments in this church, erected since the time that the above notes were taken, the principal of which are those belonging to the Carr family. That which is last noticed by Mr. Hollis, is situated on the left hand leading into the chancel, and is still in a state of good preservation. The inscription, which we insert below, will be found, however, to differ in some particulars.

Here lieth buried Robert Carre, Esquire, who by his first wife Elizabeth y^e daughter of William Cawdron, Esquire, had yssve 4 sonnes & 3 daughters. George Carre, his eldest sonne, by Marie the daughter of Ambrose

Staton, Esquire, had yssve Robert Carre, the nows heire living. Robert Carre, his seconde sonne, first married Marie y^e daughter of Earl of Worcester, then widdow to Lord Gray of Wilton, & afterwarde he married Cassandra y^e daughter of Price, Esquire. William Carre his thirde sonne, married Bridgett the daughter of Sr John Chaworth, Knight, one of the Gentlewoemen of y^e Queene's Ma^{ties} Privie Chamber. And Edward Carre his fourth sonne, married Katherine y^e daughter of Charles Bolle, Esquire. Elizabeth his eldest daughter, first married William Fairefaxe, Esquire, & afterwards Christopher Kelke, Esquire. Anne his seconde daughter, first married Robert Whitcote, Esquire, & afterwards Christopher Legerde, Esquire. And Bridgett his third daughter married Richard Rosseter, Esquire.

The first saide Robert Carre, secondlie married Anne the daughter of Sr. George Tailboyes, Knight, then widdow to Sr. Edward Dymocke, Knight. And thirdlie Anne the daughter of Charles Knivett, and died, without yssve by them, the xi daie of September, Anno Domini 1590.

Over the inscription is the following motto.

Christus nichil vita, et mors nichil lucrum.

On the south side of the east end of the middle aisle, and adjoining the screen, opposite to the above, is a large superbly ornamented marble monument, of which the annexed engraving will convey a correct idea. Under a canopy supported by two pillars of black marble, are the figures of a man in armour, with a sword girded to his left side, and a lady on his right; their heads resting on two neatly sculptured cushions, and their hands on their breasts. Above them are two cherubs bearing torches, likewise several emblems of



...the ... side, and ... nearly similar ... Above ... several ...



Drawn & Engraved by R.L. Wright.

MONUMENT OF SIR EDWARD CARR IN SLEAFORD CHURCH.

Published by J. Crossley, Sleaford, 1835.



Drawn & Engraved by R.L. Wright.

MONUMENT OF SIR EDWARD CARR IN SLEAFORD CHURCH.

Published by J. Cressy, Sleaford, 1825.

2021

mortality, and a tablet of black marble, with the following inscription.

Here lyeth the bodye of Sr. Edward Carre, Knight and Baronssett, who married two wyves. The first was Katherine, daughter of Charles Boll, Esquier, by whom he had noe issue. His second wief was Ann the daughter of Sr. Richard Dyer, of Stoughton in y^e county of Hvyntingdon, Knight, by whom he had issue two sonnnes and one daughter, vidl^{ic}. Sr. Robert, now Baronett, Rochester, and Lvcy. He departed this lief the first daie of October, Anno Domini
1618.

At the eastern end of the north aisle, on a splendid altar tomb of marble, enclosed with iron railings, having a chequered marble pavement, are the following inscriptions,

On the south side:—

Within

Resteth y^e body of y^e Right Hon^{ble} Sr. ROBERT CARR, of Sleaford, in y^e County of Lincolne, K^t. and Barro^t., Chancellor of y^e Dvtychy & County Palatine of Lancaster, and one of his Maties Most Hon^{ble} Privie Counsell.

Son of Sr. ROBERT CARR, of Sleaford, Barr^t. and Dame MARY his Wife.

Hee married ELIZABETH BENNET, one of the daughters of Sr. JOHN BENNET, of Harlington, in y^e County of Middlesex, K^t. by whome hee had issue sonnnes and daughters.

Hee departed this life November y^e 14th, in y^e 45th yeare of his age, and in y^e yeare of ovr Lord, 1682, leaving behinde him only two children, EDWARD and ISSABELLA.

Hee was a gentleman of great parts, loyal to his prince, beloved of his country, and a true protestant according to the Church of England.

On the north side:—

Within

Rests all that remaines of Sir EDWARD CARR, Barr^t.
y^e only son and heir y^t survived y^e Right Hon^{ble} Sir

H

ROBERT CARR, K^t. and Bar^t. whos early vertues gave jst hopes, and most fair promises of great fvtvre perfections, for he was indeed vertuous to an example.

He died y^e 28th of Decem^{br}, 1683, & in y^e 18th year of his age, to the great sorrow of his acquaintance, greater loss of his family, but greatest griefe of his dear indvlgent mother, who caused this inscription in memorial of him.

There is also a bust of Sir Robert Carr, and the armorial bearings of the family, on the wall on the north side of the monument. A door on the other side of the wall, communicates with the vault underneath, in which are five leaden coffins and two small urns: one of the coffins is in the shape of a female, and another of a gigantic size.

On the south side, immediately on entering the chancel, is a fine mural monument of marble, bearing the following inscription.

Here lyeth the body of John Walpoole
of Whaplode, Esq. who departed this
life An^o 1591, having no issue of his body:
and his wife was after married to John
Markham of Sidebroke, Esq. and after his
decease, to Sr. William Skipwith, of
Cootes, Knight, at whose cost
& chardges this monvm^t was erected, An^o
1631.

There are numerous other mural monuments of later date, the whole of which it would be impracticable to collect in this work, but the following inscription on a copper tablet, on the wall by the stairs leading to the organ-loft, we deem proper to insert.

Theophili Brittainæ,
cantabridgiensis allum^r

*fidelis evangelii præconis
reliquiæ hic depositæ,
sunt decimo secundo die
Septembris, Anno Dom.
1696. Ætatis suæ LXIII.*

The pavement contains many stones which mark, no doubt, the graves of ecclesiastics and other persons; but the brasses that once represented their effigies, and recorded their names, have long since been erased. There are now only three brass plates remaining, which bear the following inscriptions.

On one near the pulpit, in black letter:—

*Here lyeth y^e bodie of Rycherd Pvkeworth,
mercier, y^e which dep'ted this world y^e xxiii
dale of Julie, in y^e year of or Lord God,
mccccclvii, of whos soull God
have mercie, Amen.*

On one in the chancel:—

Robert Camock his remembrance of his Freind,

*Here vnder lyeth the body of Richard
Warsope, woollen draper, who departed
this life the 21st of September 1609,
Ætatis suæ 52.*

On another in the chancel:—

*Resvr gemmæ
depositvm fidei
fidelis uxoris
Milonis Long, gener'.
10 Marcij, 1664.
Nostra autem conuersatio
in Cælis est.*

In the steeple hangs a peal of eight tunable bells, cast by Mr. Osborn, of Downham in Norfolk, in the year 1796: weight of the tenor, nineteen hundred weight, three quarters, and six pounds, in the key of E. The bells bear the following inscriptions.—

1.—The Lord to praise, my voice I'll raise.

2.—Give no offence to the church.

3.—Peace and good neighbourhood.

4.—Edward Waterson, vicar.

5.—Long live king George the third.

6.—William Kirton and George Robinson, Churchwardens.

7.—These eight bells were cast in the year 1796,

8.—I to the church the living call,

And to the grave do summon all.

Thomas Osborn, Founder, Downham, Norfolk.

The communion plate, which consists of several costly pieces, and for security's sake is not kept in the church, is thus inscribed:

Ex dono Annæ Ashby, Gul. Ashby de Leicestræ, Armig. nuper uxoris. On two pieces

Donum Parochiale.

Ex dono Dorotheæ Roper, Jos. Roper, D. D. Relictæ.

Ex dono Thomæ Seller, A. M. Hujus ecclesiæ per 34 Annos nuper Vicarius, 1737.

And on a piece given by the Earl of Bristol in the year 1810. Sleaford Church.

The interior dimensions of the church, from west to east, including the chancel, is one hundred and fifty-four feet, the breadth of the former sixty-four, and of the latter twenty-five feet; the north transept is forty-five feet in length, and twenty-five in breadth, The altitude of the steeple, including the spire, is one hundred and forty-four feet.

The various carvings which ornament the different parts of this fine church deserve a most particular examination; the stone having well preserved its forms, and remaining of a fine harmonious colour.

On the south side is the following inscription, sculptured in the cornice or water-table.

*Hec Ipeth William Harbeter and Elizabeth his Wife,
Expet ihu graunte pem everlasting lyfe.^a*

The south porch is well proportioned and suited to the rest of the church. It is now disused as an entrance, and the public fire-engines are kept in it. Beneath this porch appears to be a crypt, or subterraneous room; which seems to have been entered on the west side, by a low arched doorway. This crypt is now inaccessible.^b

We have been favoured with the following remarks on the architecture, &c., of this church, by Mr. Thomas Rickman, an eminent architect, of Birmingham.

"The church at Sleaford is of great interest:—it has a nave and aisles, with a large chapel, or transept, on the north side, and a large chancel without aisles. The tower stands at the west end of the nave, and has a spire;—this steeple is

^a This inscription is noticed in Gough's great work on Sepulchral Monuments; where speaking of inscriptions cut on the ledges of stones, or raising them in high relief, he says, "Of this kind, on public buildings, I know not a finer sample than in the water-table of the south side of Sleaford church." Similar lines in rhyme are inscribed upon the porches of towers of some other churches in this county.

^b The south porch of Boston church has a vaulted crypt under its pavement, which is now used as a cistern for the water that descends,¹ by spouts, from the roof of the church.

front will rarely be matched by any parochial church, and certainly by none amongst the great number of noble churches, of that class, with which Lincolnshire is so eminently beautified.

The Living is a discharged Vicarage, valued in the King's books at £8. 0s. 0d. Patron, the Rev. Richard Yerburch, D. D. The following is a list of Vicars, extracted from the registers at Lincoln, and this place.

VICARII DE LAFFORD NOVA.

TEMP. INST.	VICARII ECCL.	QUOT ANN.	VAC.
Non dic.	—Richardus de Bray.	.	Non dic.
A. D. 1313.	—Johannes de Kirkeby,	23.	Per resig.
	1336.—Henricus de Levesingham de		
	Iwardeby,	4.	Per mort.
	1340.—Thomas de Werdale,	3.	Non dic.
	1343.—Richard de Hugate,	6.	Idem.
	1349.—Johannes de Whittleleghe,	54.	Idem.
	1404.—Whillielmus Smyth de Rauceby,	12.	Per resig.
	1416.—Whillielmus Penyman,	1.	Non dic.
	1416.—William Hoghton,	16.	Per resig.
	1432.—Johannes Bolber,	35.	Idem.
	1467.—Johannes Walker,	1.	Non dic.
	1468.—Richardus Mareys,	9.	Idem.
	1477.—Richardus West,	12.	Idem.
	1489.—Adam Grafton,	2.	Idem.
	1491.—Gilbertus Cowell,	24.	Idem.
	1515.—Rev. Johannes Godfre,	24.	Per mort.
	1539.—Whillielmus Warre,	6.	Idem.
	1545.—Robertus Bayt,	9.	Idem.
	1553.—Georgius Cocket,	34.	Non dic.

TEMP. INST.	VICARII ECCL.	QUOT ANN.	VAC.
A. D. 1587.—	Rev. Thomas Westcott,	31.	Non dic.
1618.—	Richard Flear,	12.	Per mort.
1630.—	Robert Alford, A. M.,	10.	Non dic.
1640.—	Miles Long,	4.	Per mort.
1644.—	Richard Milward,	12.	Non dic.
1656.—	George Boheme, ^a	4.	Per eject.
1660.—	Henry Allen,	22.	Per mort.
1682.—	William Wyche,	9.	Per res. ^b
1691.—	Edward Smith, A. M.,	12.	Per mort.
1703.—	Thomas Seller, A. M.,	34.	Idem.
1737.—	William Seller, A. M.,	31.	Idem.
1769.—	Edward Smith,	11.	Idem.
1780.—	John Plampin,	1.	Per resig.
1781.—	Edward Waterson, A. M.,	28.	Per cess. ^c
1791.—	Edward Waterson, A. M.,		Per mort.
1809.—	Richard Yerburch, A. M.,	}	Per cess. ^d
1810.—	Richard Yerburch, D. D.		

Sleaford is also a Prebend in Lincoln, valued in the king's books at £11. 19s. 7d. Patron, the bishop of Lincoln. The following, taken principally from Willis's Cathedral Churches, is a list of the Prebendaries thereof.

PREBENDARII DE LAFFORD NOVA.

TEMP. INST.	PREBENDARII ECCL.	QUOT ANN.	VAC.
A. D. 1279.—	Joh. de Wydrington,	.	Non dic.
	Non dic.—Roger de Martival,	.	Per resig.

^a An account of this person, who was ejected by the Act of Uniformity, will be found in the Biographical department of this work.

^b Instituted to the Rectory of Silk Willoughby. ^c Instituted to the Rectory of Quarrington. ^d Instituted to the Rectory of Tothill.

TEMP. INST.	PREBENDarii ECCL.	QUOT ANN.	VAC.
A. D. 1293.—	Willi de Stockton, . . .	17.	Per mort.
1310.—	Thomas de Bray, . . .	6.	Per resig.
1316.—	Peter de Dalderby, . . .	6.	Non dic.
1322.—	Luchin, alias Anthonni de Phisko, . . .	5.	Idem.
1327.—	William de Exon, . . .	9.	Idem.
1336.—	Geoffery de Groppo, . . .	4.	Idem.
1340.—	William de Cusance, . . .	29.	Idem.
1369.—	John Ufford, . . .	17.	Idem.
1376.—	Thomas de la Warre, . . .	14.	Per resig.
1390.—	Willi Halswell, . . .	28.	Non dic.
1418.—	Ralph Lowth, . . .	14.	Per resig.
1432.—	Richard Tone, L. L. D., . . .	2.	Idem.
1434.—	Nicholas Clark, . . .	25.	Non dic.
1450.—	Thomas Salisbury, . . .	1.	Per mort.
1460.—	John Sapton, . . .	2.	Per resig.
1463.—	Thomas Gauge, . . .	2.	Idem.
1465.—	Nicholas Rawdon, . . .	14.	Idem.
1479.—	Richard Langton, S. T. P., . . .	3.	Idem.
1482.—	Richard Norton, L. L. D., . . .	10.	Idem.
1492.—	Nicholas Haleswell, . . .	28.	Non dic.
1520.—	James Mallett, . . .	18.	Per resig.
1533.—	Thomas Robertson, . . .	3.	Idem.
1536.—	Owen Oglethorpe, S. T. P., . . .	21.	Idem.
1557.—	John Hurd or Hord, M. D., . . .	31.	Non dic.
1588.—	George Huddleston, . . .	25.	Per mort.
1613.—	John Williams, S. T. P., . . .	1.	Per resig.
1614.—	Nicholas Greenhill, . . .	46.	Per mort.
1660.—	John Mantel, . . .	8.	Non dic.
1668.—	John Lee, . . .	2.	Per resig.
1670.—	Thomas Meriton, . . .	26.	Idem.
1683.—	George Thomason, A. M., . . .	3.	Non dic.
1686.—	Thomas Meriton, . . .	26.	Per mort.

TEMP. INST.	PREBENDARIÆ ECCL.	QUOT ANN.	VAG.
A. D. 1712.—William Wake,	.	1.	Non dic.
1712. Thomas Seller, A. M.,	.	25.	Per mort.
1737.—Henry Gibert,	,	34.	Idem.
1770.—Basil Bury Beridge,	.	38.	Idem.
1808.—Charles Proby, A. M.,	.	14.	Idem.
1822.—George Turnor, L. L. B.,	.	2.	Idem.
1824.—John Matthias Turner, A. M.			

PARISH REGISTERS.

With regard to the commencement of Parish Registers, Stow, in his Chronicle, says, "This month of September, (1539) Thomas Cromwell, lord privy seal, &c., sent forth instructions to all bishops and curates, throughout the realm, charging them to see that a Book of Register was provided and kept in every parish church, wherein shall be written every wedding, christening, and burying, within the same parish for ever;" from which we may infer, that, on the dissolution of monasteries, in which, most probably, registers and records of almost every description were kept, it became expedient to have some other secure depository for the same, and that the parish churches henceforth became the places of trust.

There is a remarkable, and almost uniformly regular deficiency in the registers of the parishes included in this work, (but which is by no means confined either to these places, or to the county of Lincoln,) wherein is noticed a want of twenty years in the earliest registers, and of a longer space in others, from the time when registers were first used in churches. But whether this deficiency has arisen from the loss and spoliation of the books themselves, or that they were called together, after the first twenty years, to be placed in

some secure depository (which latter supposition we are inclined to support), it is impossible for us satisfactorily to determine.

Sleaford Register commences with the year 1575, which is but thirty-six years short of the above command, in the time of Henry VIII., and begins in the month of October, which appears to be considered as the beginning of the year, as it would of course be, after the beforementioned order. The following miscellaneous entries in this register, may not improperly find a place here.—

In 1586 was neither a marriage nor baptism. 1588—Edward Barnard, gentlman, was Xtned. 1601—There were to strangers, young men, that were found kyld in our field; they were buried in our church-yard. 1602—A child Xtned the day of its father's burial. (This was a practice by no means uncommon in those days, and arose, perhaps, from a mistaken interpretation of this passage of St. Paul: "Else what shall they do who are *baptized for the dead*," &c. 1 Cor. xv. 29.) 1614—Two ran from Sleaford with a license, and Mr. Morice married them. 1638—A poor stranger boy found dead in our field. 1639—Goodwife Washingborough the elder buried. 1656—Lancellot Foster of Lincolu, gent., stabbed by a soldier, Thomas Nicholls, who was hanged for the same, and Mr. Foster was buried. 1660—A child of John Holland, ballitt singer, was baptized. 1662—Old Goodman Squire of Holdingham, buried. 1663—Mr. Robert Cook (burnt in his fired stable), buried. 1665—John Waite buried of the plague. 1667—Aged Robert Brown buried. 1698—A soldier kill'd and buried. 1728—A father and his child baptized together. 1751—The bell knolled for the Prince of Wales 4 hours. 1760—The bell knolled for king George II. 12 hours. 1775, was buried the wife of William Farmery, who was murdered by her son. The above William Farmery died a few days after this melancholy fate of his wife's, having been sexton of the parish 49 years. 1817—On November 19th, the bell tolled, in minute time, from eight o'clock at night until twelve, being four hours, in consequence of the funeral of the Princess Charlotte of Wales. 1818—The bell tolled one hour on the death of her majesty queen Charlotte. 1820—On January 30th, Sleaford passing bell, after ringing as usual on the death of a male, tolled twelve hours, viz. from one o'clock in the day, as soon as the melancholy news arrived by the mail, till one o'clock in the night, for his late majesty king George III., as was the case with king George II. 1821—On August 8th, the passing bell tolled for queen Caroline one hour, as it did for queen Charlotte.

CHURCH YARD, &c.

The church-yard, being found too confined for an increasing population, was considerably enlarged towards the north, in the year 1796; but yet it is by no means sufficiently capacious, it is to be feared, for the melancholy purposes for which it is designed. Elm trees on the west and south, planted about forty years since, by being kept clipped, give as pleasing and rural an appearance to the church-yard, as, perhaps, is possible, considering its locality; a small avenue also of the same, leading to the vicarage, being suffered to take their natural forms, afford an agreeable contrast to the other trees, and yield a refreshing aspect to every dwelling surrounding the market-place. On these trees, about seven years ago, a few rooks ventured to build their airy castles, and their fast increasing colony was much encouraged by the taste of the present inhabitant of the vicarage; but some vulgar and unmannered youths, having for three successive seasons, rudely, and before break of day, pillaged their dwellings, effectual steps were immediately taken to prevent a recurrence of the like barbarity, by destroying the rookery.

A Lock-up-House was erected twenty years since, on the eastern extremity of this church-yard, certainly not on the consecrated ground, but to which there is no other road than across the graves of our late friends and neighbours; which we cannot but view in the light of a corrupted taste, and as being a disgrace to civilization.

On each side the principal entrance gate to the church-yard, on the west, are square pillars surmounted by large heads of stone, representing the human skull, encircled with wreaths of laurel. These figures, however ridiculed by some unthinking persons, and unnoticed by others, must be considered, by any one giving the least attention to the subject,

as highly appropriate and instructive; for, under these symbols are represented both death and victory,—death, the appointed lot of all mankind,—victory, the christian's boon "*Mors janua vitæ.*" And surely these death-crowned gates, during the many years they have opened a passage to the house of prayer, have been the gates of life to many souls, which before were spiritually dead; and have likewise admitted between their gloomy columns, to christian sepulture, a multitude of our forefathers, whose brows have been encircled with the garland of victory.

Before taking our leave of the church, and its sanctuary for the dead, we must observe that on the north side is the Vicarage-house, chiefly interesting on account of its great antiquity, being built at the latter end of the fifteenth century. The annexed engraving will convey an idea also of its simplicity. A circumstance strikes us here, which we do not recollect to have seen noticed by any preceding writer,—we allude to the situation of this vicarage house, and to the vast majority of such residences, being towards the north; and are led to account for this selection, by the consideration, that the south fronts of English churches being generally the most ornamented, it would naturally occur to the builders thereof, to leave them as open and unincumbered with obstructions as possible; and it will be generally found that the south side of the church-yard is bounded by a public street or highway, while the north has, in nine cases out of ten, a portion of glebe with the parsonage-house and offices.

On a grave stone, against the north transept, to the memory of Henry Fox, weaver, are the following apt, and by no means inelegant lines, conveying moral instruction under common and intelligible images.

Of tender threads this mortal web is made,
The woof and warp, and colours early fade;



R. L. Wright, del.

J. Hughes, sculp.

SLEAFORD VICARAGE HOUSE.



When pow'r divine awakes the sleeping dust,
He gives immortal garments to the just.

In this parish "the Curfew tolls the knell of parting day," as was the case with every parish in the days of William the Conqueror, but which is now discontinued generally in villages. A singular custom also prevailed here, so recently as within ten years of the present time, of ringing the morning bell at five o'clock during the winter, and at six in the summer: this absurd distinction is now discontinued, and the morning bell rings at six.^a

^a From an order of William the Conqueror, nearly eight hundred years ago, this custom of ringing the evening and morning bells is derived; "who, in order to suppress those nocturnal computations, to which the English were so much addicted, and which afforded them an opportunity of conspiring the better against his government, required that they should extinguish their fires and lights at the hour of eight in the evening. A bell, called the Curfew, (*quasi couvre feu*, or cover fire,) was rung, to give notice of the same; nor was it lawful to enkindle them again until the sounding of the morning bell, which was rung at four o'clock."

MODERN ACCOUNT AND PRESENT STATE OF THE TOWN.

To a lover of antiquity, and to one who could almost be content to feed upon the *rust* of "olden times," and could repose, with true delight, on a bed richly ornamented by the darkened oak, whilst the animated and almost never-fading tapestry around him, serves but to increase his pleasure; nothing can be less congenial to his taste, than to attempt a description of the modern state and present condition of a town or village; yet, to such a description, in former days, we are indebted for all that we at present know of the rise and fall of any place or country; and we are to recollect that, however uninteresting to us it may be now to read the annals and passing events of our own town, or well known adjacent villages, yet, when a few more years have passed away, these little accounts will be as pleasing to those generations who are to succeed us, as the records of antiquity, relating to the same places, are to us at the present time.

New Sleasford, which is situated in the wapentake of Flaxwell, in the parts of Kesteven, and in the county of Lincoln, is an improving, as well as an increasing market town, lying on the road from London to Hull, viâ Lincoln; its distance from London one hundred and fifteen, and from Lincoln eighteen miles. Turnpike roads diverge here to all the several market towns in its immediate vicinity; viz. to Folkingham, Boston, Tattershall, Donington, Grantham, and Newark. From the ready communication, thus opened, with so many excellent markets, in addition to the vast advantage of water carriage

by a canal, which was executed here in the year 1792, by which corn and merchandise are speedily conveyed to Boston, and thence to the sea; and in the contrary direction to Lincoln, and thence, by continued rivers and canals, to the most distant inland manufacturing towns and populous districts, we may easily account for the increasing importance of a situation like Sleaford; and may reasonably anticipate its becoming a place, at no very distant period, which will stand pre-eminent among the towns in the parts of Kesteven assuredly, and will even rank high with the best towns in the large county of Lincoln.

The parish of New Sleaford, with the hamlet of Holdingham belonging thereto, of which a slight sketch will be found subjoined, was enclosed, by an Act of Parliament, in the thirty-fourth year of the reign of George III., A. D. 1794, and is said to contain two thousand acres or thereabouts; of which quantity, one thousand nine hundred and forty-two acres were to be divided among different proprietors, and five acres were set out for the repairs of roads, which roads contain thirty-six acres.

That the situation of Sleaford, although apparently low, yet in point of fact is by no means so, is plainly indicated from the circumstance that the river, which flows through the town, (having its source about a mile to the west,) in its course to Chapel Hill, where it empties itself into the Witham, is of sufficient elevation to serve five mills within the short distance of two miles. The approach also to this place, from both the north and south, is by a considerable ascent, viz. by the hill from the bottom of Quarrington parish, adjoining Silk Willoughby, on the south, and by what is called "Galley Hill" (*Gallows Hill*), on the north. On the west is the "little fenne," mentioned by Leland, where is a singular plot of high ground, called "Bounstone Hill" (*Bouncing Hill*), which is

completely surrounded by the fen, and apparently has never had a raised road to it; so that, before the inclosure; and consequent improved drainage of the fen, it must have been for many months in the year inaccessible: yet this does not appear to have been an artificial mound, cast up for the purposes of fortification, security, or intrenchment, but to have been a natural elevation. Near this spot is a field called the "Dancing piece," no doubt so named from the shaking and quavering motion of the ground, being composed entirely of a kind of heath or turberry. Also adjoining is a beautiful small pool of water, known by the name of "Gilt Eau," from its extreme transparency, and a beautiful white sand at the bottom. A fine spring takes its rise at the north west extremity of this fen, and after numerous windings and ramifications, passes through the town. Of this river, we must not omit to notice a very remarkable property, viz. that it has never been known to have been frozen over within about two miles below the town, and three from its source; which can be accounted for in no other way, than on the supposition that its original calorific qualities are not sufficiently subdued by its exposure to the air, during this extended course; for the rapidity of its current is certainly not less, but must be increased the nearer it approaches to its final outfall. The late Rev. G. Thorold, of Rauceby, stocked this river, only a few years since, with a quantity of that species of fish called trout, which abundantly increased, and would with a little care and forbearance, have proved a source of amusement as well as profit to many.

The improvement in the trade and commerce of Sleaford, in consequence of the navigation, may be collected by the following statement of the lettings of the Navigation Tolls at three periods specified. In the year 1795, they were let for £498.; in the year 1806, for £562.; and in the year 1824, for £1010. per annum.

The number of houses or tenements here, in the year 1821, was four hundred and forty-five, including such as were then building, with a population of two thousand and ninety four persons. But to enable the reader to form a conception of the relative state of the population of Sleaford, we would wish him to consult the subjoined extracts from the population returns of 1801, 1811, and 1821, by which a great and a wholesome increase, such an increase we mean, as is not derived from the fluctuating and not to be desired cause of a speculating manufacturer, will be clearly seen.

YEARS.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
1801,	694,	789.	1483.
1811.	837.	944.	1781.
1821,	995.	1099.	2094.

It appears by a return in the time of queen Elizabeth, A. D. 1565, that the number of families then in Sleaford, was only one hundred and forty-five.^a

Of the worthies who were formerly an ornament to this parish, and who were also such great benefactors to the poor, in gifts of money,—the endowment, upon a princely scale, of a hospital or alms house,—and the foundation of a school, under the much-to-be-respected name of Carr,—and of others also who have left behind them “never-withering laurels,”—we shall speak in their proper places; and although delicacy will not permit us to select, among so many examples of living charity, still actively engaged among us in doing good, yet it is but an act of justice to the living, as well as to the dead, to state our firm conviction, that no place of its size, in this county, is

^a Harleian MSS., No. 618.

more highly favoured with deeds of benevolence; which, like its refreshing river Slæb, turn and twist themselves into every form and shape, watering and reviving every barren and dreary waste.

The Right Honourable Frederick William, Earl of Bristol, is lord of the manor,^a and chief proprietor of this parish, having obtained his possessions here by the marriage of his great grandfather, John Hervey, the first Earl of Bristol, with Isabel, the daughter, heiress, and last surviving branch of the family of Sir Robert Carre, baronet, whose residence was at Sleaford.

Four principal streets, almost rectangular from their common centre, the market-place, and pointing nearly with the four winds, form almost the whole of the town. These streets are distinguished by the addition of *gate* to the quarter to which they lead, as "*Southgate*," &c. This is a very ancient mode of distinguishing streets, having its origin from the circumstance of gates being placed, before enclosures were so general, at the extremity of each street leading to the common, to prevent the cattle from straying into the town.

The market-place is spacious, and bounded on the east by the beautiful west front of the church, and had formerly a cross^b standing therein; which cross we find mentioned in the

^a A Fee Farm rent of fifty pounds a year is paid to the crown by the earl of Bristol, for the manor of Sleaford.

^b "Many crosses were placed as marks of the boundaries of districts, which remain at this day. Many of these stones were demolished by the Christians, when they supposed them to have been dedicated to idolatrous purposes, and then their ancient names were soon forgotten, which may be the reason why so many broken crosses are called *Stump crosses*, nay even the hills and roads adjoining went by this name. [We have an instance of this in *Quarrington Field*, a part of the road leading to Silk Willoughby, being called in ancient writings, *Stump-cross road*.] Sometimes they were erected where the corpse of any

Conference referred to at page 43, in one part of which work it says, that "the quaker's books were publicly burnt at the market-cross at Sleaford." This cross stood in front of the church, nearly opposite to the north door, and was removed within the memory of several persons now living, in consequence of its dilapidated state, into the church, where the basement stone still remains in a recess, on the north side of the middle aisle, at the entrance thereof. A whipping post and pair of stocks, also stood near the said cross, the former of which was taken up by the late Mr. John Lord, carpenter, and made use of by him as a gate-post. A bull-ring still remains in the centre of the market-place, but, to the credit of the inhabitants, it has not been applied to its savage purpose, for a very considerable time, scarcely within the memory of man.

The market is held on Monday, a day to which numerous objections might be urged in a religious point of view, and which, it is hoped, will, ere long, be changed by the means of those seriously disposed representatives of the nation, who have already taken the subject of monday markets into consideration. May their endeavours be speedily crowned with success! It is abundantly supplied with excellent meat, poultry, and fish, not so well with vegetables; but the prices are considered to be higher than those at either Lincoln or Boston. Of what are called the five fair days, annually held

great person had rested as it was carried to be buried, and very often in church-yards to remind the people of the benefits vouchsafed to us by the cross of Christ; and in early times at most places of public concourse, or at the meeting of three or four roads or highways. At these crosses the corpse, in carrying to church, was set down, that the people attending might pray for the soul of the departed. It was customary for mendicants to station themselves at crosses, for the purpose of soliciting alms for Christ's sake, and it was a common saying of old, 'he begged like a cripple at the cross'."

here, we consider the first three in the year; viz. Plough Monday, Easter Monday, and Whit Monday, to be but so many larger markets; and that the twelfth of August, and the twentieth of October, both cattle fairs, the former a very inconsiderable one, to be the only true fair days. The cheese mart on the first of October, scarcely deserves to be noticed as a fair day. The fair now held on the twentieth of October, new style, being the ninth of old style, or St. Denys, was fixed, no doubt, in commemoration of the dedication-day of the parish church to St. Dennis or Dionysius, a custom commonly prevailing in England, as a slight observation of fairs and village feasts, and a reference to the saints to whom their respective churches are dedicated, will clearly shew.

Like most other towns of a corresponding population, Sleaford has its Quarter Sessions, and its weekly attendance of magistrates, which is a vast convenience to the public. The sessions which are rather adjourned, than regular quarter sessions, succeed those held at Bourn and Folkingham on the first Mondays after the Epiphany,—Easter,—St. Thomas a Becket,—and St. Michael,—uniformly on the following Thursdays. A mail coach daily from London at eleven o'clock, A. M., and from the north at four o'clock, P. M.; besides a second daily coach, equal to the other with regard to regularity and security, are sources of great comfort, economy, and convenience to the inhabitants here.

A most respectable Banking house was opened here in the year 1792, and, from the just and unshaken confidence placed in its security, has proved of great utility to this place and neighbourhood. A Saving's bank also, on the well known principle of such institutions, for receiving small and weekly deposits from servants, labourers, and little mechanics, being considered a desirable foundation with an increasing population here, and in the heart, as it were, of a great assemblage

of populous villages and hamlets, was first established in the year 1818, since which time the fund has been gradually increasing, and has fully answered the expectations of those with whom the institution, in this place, originated.

There are in Sleaford, beside the established church, three congregations of protestant dissenters; viz. Independents, Methodists, and those called Lady Huntingdon's Connection. There was formerly a chapel, belonging to the Presbyterians, standing at the back of the house now occupied by Mr. Tidd, saddler, near the bridge in Southgate. This chapel was taken down fifty-two years ago.

ZION CHAPEL,

which is situated at the extremity of Hen Lane, was built in the year 1776. In the year 1819, this chapel was unroofed, the walls raised, and galleries erected; so that it is now a very comfortable and commodious place of worship, being capable of seating about five hundred persons: it has always been supplied with preachers in the connection of the late Countess of Huntingdon.

THE METHODIST CHAPEL :

is situated in Westgate, and is a particularly neat looking building; it was erected in 1823, and was opened on the sixth of July in that year. This chapel is well fitted up within, containing pews and galleries, and will seat a congregation of nearly six hundred and fifty persons. The first Methodist chapel in Sleaford was opened on the fourteenth of February, 1802, and stood but a few yards north of the present building; on the erection of which it was taken down.

PROVIDENCE CHAPEL

stands in the parish of Old Sleaford, near the entrance of the town from the Boston road, and was built in the year 1808; it was opened for divine worship, by the late Rev. William Huntington, on Sunday, July the tenth, of the same year. The congregation assembling in this chapel are called Independents.

Within the distance of eight miles of Sleaford, there are no less than fifty-three villages and hamlets; from the number and populousness of which, it might be expected that the advantage of those excellent establishments called Benefit or Friendly Societies, would be duly appreciated, and that numbers would enrol their names under their fostering banners. In Sleaford, therefore, congregate eight of these well regulated companies, of which one is a female society: the Wednesday in Whitsun week is their gay anniversary; on which day, after attending, in regular order, divine service, they return with great order and decorum to their respective inns, where a plentiful dinner, in the true English style, cements if possible more firmly, that union of hearts and interests, so essential for the support and continuance of such societies.

CHARITIES, &c.

THERE is an estate in Sleaford, consisting of a stone and tiled house, with a garden adjoining, situated on the east side of the southern extremity of southgate; and a small allotment belonging thereto, on the great moor to the right of the road leading to Tattershall. This estate, which is now possessed by John Fieldsend in right of his wife, was leased A. D. 1755, for ninety-nine years, and was given in trust unto certain trustees, the reserved rent, after the annual payment of ten shillings to the vicar, is distributed at the church on St Thomas's day, among the poor in bread; but which, in the strict meaning of the grant, ought to be applied to the repairs of the church. It is supposed that the above property was granted a great many years previous to the abovementioned lease, although it is not correctly known when, or by whom it was given, but it is said by a Mr. John Cammocke.

Robert Carre of Aswarby, in the county of Lincoln, esquire, in the year 1604, granted in trust, five score acres of land at Gedney, in the same county, the reuts and profits of which to be applied in the manner following:—viz. for the maintenance of a

FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

in this parish, a money payment of twenty pounds a year was to be appropriated; and the remainder to the relief of poor impotent persons in Sleaford, Holdingham, and Old Sleaford, at the discretion of the trustees. One of the methods of distribution, and which has apparently been the custom ever since the first grant of this charity, is, by a quarterly

gift to a specified number of poor families, which at this time amounts to fifty, and who receive a quarterly portion of five shillings each, making the annual expenditure fifty pounds in this form. Some trustees regularly attend this quarterly distribution, to fill up vacancies as they occur, and for other purposes. The trust are to consist of eight or ten of the most substantial and discreet inhabitants of New Sleaford; and when their number shall be reduced to three, two, or one, then a new set of trustees is to be appointed by the survivor or survivors. It happens at this time that, the number being reduced to three, a new appointment is about to be made.

The stipend for a master for this school, who must be a graduate of one of the English Universities, is so limited, that some difficulty is experienced in supplying the situation, which at this time is vacant, and has been so for more than two years.

In the records of this charity the following memorandum is met with, which, as it refers to the times of Oliver Cromwell, perhaps claims insertion here. "From 1644 until May, 1646, the times were so confused in respect of warrs, that neither rents could be received, nor accounts taken up, yet the money that could be got was disposed of as appears by bills, &c."

To the above brief account of this gift generally, we add a list of the Masters of the School, from its first endowment to the resignation of the last person who filled the situation.

A. D. 1604.—Anthony Barton.

1608.—Mr. Browne.

1609.—Mr. Newell,

1615.—Mr. Etherington.

1619.—Rev. John Kitchen, A. M.

1622.—Mr. Northen.

1629.—Mr. Trevillian.

A. D. 1635.—	Rev. Mr. Fancourt.
1638.—	Edmund Trevillian.
1646.—	Thomas Gibson, A. M. ^a
1663.—	Peter Stevens.
1683.—	William North, A. M.
1691.—	Matthew Smith, A. B.
1736.—	William Seller, A. B.
1781.—	Edward Waterson, A. M.
1811.—	Elias Huelin, A. B.

The annual meeting of the trustees of the above charity, is on the seventeenth of November.

AN HOSPITAL OR ALMSHOUSE,

founded by Sir Robert Carr of Old Sleaford, baronet, in the twelfth year of the reign of king Charles I., A. D. 1636, and most bountifully endowed with the Impropritate Rectories of Metheringham and Kirkby Laythorpe, in this county, is situated on the south side of the east street, and directly opposite the church. The benevolent design of its founder was, to give support to twelve poor men, to be chosen from certain parishes specified in the deed; of which number two are from Kirkby Laythorpe; two from New Sleaford; one from Holdingham; one from Quarrington or Old Sleaford; two from Great(north) Rauceby, if two proper subjects be found therein, otherwise the boon to extend to Little Rauceby; one from Anwick; one from Asgarby; one from Little Hale; and one from Aswarby. A blue cloth gown, given to each every Whitsunday, is their only distinguishing costume. A great

^a For some account of this person see our Biographical Notices.

many comforts and conveniences greet those who are so fortunate as to obtain an asylum here. To the stated weekly allowance, at this time, of ten shillings each, is added a chaplain for their, especial spiritual consolation, medical advice, and a nurse in sickness: each person has likewise a set of separate apartments and a sufficient quantity of coals.

On the fourteenth of August, 1823, the foundation stone of a Chapel, of which the following engraving is a correct representation, for this hospital was laid, (the room formerly used as a chapel having been in a dilapidated state for many years,) which, being built with the old materials, and after the date, and style of 1636, forms a chaste and highly ornamental building, at the same time that it affords a most convenient and appropriate place of worship for those to whom it is assigned.



Ten governors, five of whom are perpetual, viz. the Rectors of Kirkby and Asgarby, the Vicar of Sleaford, and the Rectors of Quarrington and Aswarby; and five other gentlemen (laymen), have the management of this charity: their annual meeting is on Whit-Tuesday, when a dinner is given to the

Beadsmen, vacancies filled up, and the general business of the trust settled.

Mr. Robert Cammocke the younger, mercer, by will 1631, gave a farm at Harmston in this county, but charged it with an annual payment of fourteen pounds; of which, five pounds were to be given to the Vicar of New Sleaford, four pounds to the Master of Mr. Carr's school, and the remaining five pounds to provide five poor persons with a frieze gown each, and shoes and stockings also, if the same could be bought for that money. This estate is now the property of Benjamin Hart Thorold, esquire, who resides at Harmston, and regularly pays this demand.

Mr. Henry Callow of this parish, mercer, by will 1657, gave in trust two certain closes in the parish of Ruskington, in this county; from the rent and profit of which, two pounds were to be given to the Vicar of this parish annually, five pounds to be yearly laid out in five gowns, five pairs of shoes, and as many pairs of stockings, if the same could be procured for the money, to five poor persons of this place, and the surplus (if any), to be bestowed on the church, at the discretion of the trustees.

Miles Long, gentleman, in the year 1688, gave to the Vicar of New Sleaford, twenty shillings a year for ever, and secured the payment on his houses in Southgate, now in the tenure and possession of Mr. Willam Hyde, coal merchant, and Mr. William Fisher, miller.

William Alvey, late of this parish, gentleman, by will dated 1726, gave an estate of about fifty-four acres, at Fishtoft, in this county, to certain trustees, for the educating children of the poor here, and also at Balderton in the county of Nottingham. At this time twenty boys and as many girls, each under a suitable teacher, and in separate schools, are receiving

the benefits of an excellent education, suited to their rank in life, through the means of this serviceable charity. The remembrance of their kind benefactor is every year renewed more especially by an attendance at the church, and a feast succeeding, on the twenty-first of August, on which day the trustees also meet to settle the accounts.

Mrs. Margaret Kinsey and others, granted A. D. 1730, out of an estate in this place, called the "Old Hall," now the property of Mr. John Hackett, grocer, an annual payment of five shillings to the poor of Sleaford, which has been given for a long time in bread, at the church on St. Thomas's day.

Mrs. Ann Ashby, the widow of William Ashby, esquire, of Leicester, who also gave some valuable oblations to the altar, assigned in the year 1770, twenty pounds in Turnpike securities, the interest of which to be expended in purchasing books for Mr. Alvey's charity schools.

Sir John Thorold of Syston Park, in this county, baronet, also gave, in the same year, five pounds in Turnpike securities for the same purpose.

Mrs. Susanna Darwin, widow, late of this parish, gave to certain trustees, by will A. D. 1784, one hundred pounds, the interest of which to be given and paid to the Organist of the parish church of Sleaford, towards his salary.

James Harryman, late of New Sleaford, gentleman, by will in the year 1785, gave in trust two hundred and fifty pounds, Turnpike security,—the interest of one hundred and fifty pounds thereof, to provide every Sunday ten loaves of bread of three-pence each, for as many poor widows of New and Old Sleaford applying at the church for the same; and the interest of the remainder for shoes and hose for the children in Mr. Alvey's charity schools.

Mrs. Ann Fenwick of this parish, gave in trust, by will A. D. 1788, fifty pounds, the interest of which to be annually given to augment the salary of the Organist.

HOLDINGHAM.

THE hamlet of Holdingham in the parish of New Sleaford, is about one mile north of the town, on the turnpike road leading thence to Lincoln. Although this hamlet is not especially noticed in Domesday Book, yet that it is included therein, we are disposed to believe, under the general name of *Eslaforde*; and the only difference we have been able to discover in the name thereof is, that in early writers it has been called *Haldingham*,—a single letter being the only variation.

The name of Holdingham, (viewing its peculiar situation, and seeing that a few hours' rain overflows its road and remains almost stationary for several hours,) may readily be supposed to have arisen from the Saxon *Holt*, signifying a hollow, and also *ing*, a meadow, and *ham*, a village, house, or farm; i. e. a rural hamlet lying in a hollow.

Before proceeding to notice the existence of a chapel and a cross in this place, at some remote period of time, we shall take this opportunity of observing generally, that a leading feature in the Sketches given of a few villages in the immediate vicinity of Sleaford, will be found to be, the existence of more than one church in some of the parishes, in addition to a chapel or oratory in their hamlets, and likewise the almost uniform addition of a chapel to the mother church, in the hamlets of the remaining parishes. To which remark we add that, perhaps no one parish will be found without its stone cross, and several will be shewn to have been adorned with two or more crosses. Dr. Stukeley remarks of Lincolnshire, that many parishes had chapels to remedy the inconvenience

of repairing from a distance to the parish church. This was particularly the case with the parishes generally in the parts of Kesteven, and these buildings appear to have been chapels of ease, or oratories ordained for prayer, having a minister licensed by the bishop, not only for prayer, but sometimes for sermons, and, in a few instances, to administer the sacraments also, but still subject to the mother church, and without the parochial rites of baptisms, marriages, and burials. The times when these chapels were disused seem to be various, depending on the license of the bishop, or the necessity of the case; and no doubt, in some instances the expense of keeping up the necessary repairs, and of course an allowance to the minister would operate in discontinuing some of them.

The Harleian Collection of MSS., in the British Museum, notices but three chapels in this immediate neighbourhood, as being in existence in the year 1565; viz. at Dorrington, Rauceby, and Roxholm.

Of the chapel formerly standing in this hamlet, we have the following brief intimations. The first, in point of time (1535), speaks of the Holy Virgin to whom this chapel was dedicated, and gives us the name of the chaplain at that time. "Lafford, D' Rob'to Redd, capellan' cantie B'te Marie, ib'm vidett in terr' & tenem' ib'm jacen' pann', *Ævij. vs. iiijd.*" From this we find that Robert Redd was the chaplain of the chapel of the blessed Mary at Holdingham, in the year 1535.

The other extract, which is from the Originalia in the Exchequer, and taken by the Hilary Commissioners in the first and second years of the reign of Philip and Mary, (A. D. 1554,) is as follows. "De A. N. & aliis assignatis ad certificandum de destructione Templi in villa' de Haldingham, in parochia de Sleaford, & alia in com. Lincolnæ." From this latter quotation, taking into the account the religious sentiments of Philip and Mary, it will be difficult to determine

whether the “templum” or chapel was destroyed by their order, and that commissioners were appointed to enquire whether the command was obeyed; or, that the chapel had been suffered to fall into decay, and the commissioners were to enquire how, and through whose neglect the same had occurred: but we rather conclude with the former supposition, viz. that the chapel was destroyed by the order of the king and queen, in or about the year 1554. It is clear, however, in which ever way we view the passage, that the chapel at Holdingham was not in existence after the year abovementioned, and perhaps it will appear the most probable and reasonable way to account for the dissolution of this chapel, to refer the same to the second year of king Edward VI. (A. D. 1548), in which “divers chantries, colleges, and free chapels, with all their lands and goods, were given to the king; which being sold at a low rate, enriched many and ennobled some.”

It appears from MSS. in the British Museum, that the following arms were painted in a window in this chapel:

Az. 2 chev. or, betw. 3 roses, arg.—*Russel, Ep. Linc.*
Hussey.—*Barkby.*—*Markham.*

In a small pasture to the west of the turnpike road, at the turning of the same up the hill leading towards Leasingham, and also immediately behind the town houses, which appear to have been built on a corner of this pasture, may distinctly be traced the foundations of this chapel; its length, apparently about seventy feet, and its breadth thirty feet.

This little hamlet has, no doubt, been ornamented, like its neighbouring villages and hamlets, with its stone cross; for a small octagonal basement stone of a cross was seen, a short time since, placed as a stepping stone from a foot bridge, at the very point (the turning of the road towards Leasingham,

and in front of the chapel,) where we should suppose the cross would have stood.

Before the enclosure of this hamlet, a considerable part of the common was called "*the Anna*;" and, as no reason, that we have heard of, has been given for this name, may we not, without exceeding the license usually given to Antiquaries in their searches into occult names and things, very fairly conclude, that the *Anna* meant nothing more than the *Hamma*, an old Latin word, signifying a *home close* or *little meadow*: and such was that small, and only ancient enclosure, at the bend of the road leading from this place towards Newark, and on the north side thereof, about three quarters of a mile from the hamlet.

Holdingham has its own parish officers, who manage its affairs, independent of Sleaford; but, of course is assessed in Sleaford church rate. The lands of Holdingham and Sleaford are so blended, and in some instances nearly undistinguished, and what seems remarkable were left so after the enclosure act of 1796, that other observations relating to this place may be seen under our description of New Sleaford.

At this time the hamlet contains eighteen houses, exclusive of some small tenements, or town houses, as they are called, for the poor; taken together, twenty-eight families. This place has evidently not much increased in its number of families, for we find from the Harleian MSS. there were twenty families here so long ago as the year 1557.

OLD SLEAFORD.

SOME difficulty arises in attempting a sketch of this place, whether to treat of it as a distinct village, or as a hamlet in the parish of Quarrington: for, although it has appeared, from documents now in existence, to have been of that parish for more than two hundred years, yet, previous to that time, it is impossible to say, decidedly, whether it was a parish of itself, which, from the circumstance of its having had a church, some would be inclined to conclude; or, that it was only a hamlet in the parish of Quarrington, which to others would seem clearly to have been the case, from two striking passages in Domesday, one of which states that part of the land in *Eslaforde* is soke of the manor of Quarrington;^a and the other, speaking of Quarrington, says, that in it “are two churches.” Now the two churches in Quarrington would not necessarily include Old Sleaford church, as other places in this neighbourhood are known to have had two churches, exclusive of a chapel in the hamlet of such parishes, if hamlets were attached thereto; but there is nothing about Quarrington, taken separately, in appearance, and certainly nothing in ancient writings, that could give the slightest ground to suppose that the village itself ever had two churches; for we read of no South or North Medieties, as in other cases, where two churches did exist; so that we are led to the final conclusion,

a See the twenty-sixth page of this work.

that the second church mentioned in Domesday as belonging to Quarrington, must have been situated in Old Sleaford; and that, consequently, it has always been a hamlet in the parish of Quarrington. Yet, still as a hamlet, we consider Old Sleaford as claiming a distinct description, from the importance attached to it, as having been the dwelling-place of Lord Hussey, and also, as being traversed by a part of that celebrated road, so well known to every lover of antiquity,—the Hermen or Ermine Street.

It is of this ancient road, so far as regards its course through this hamlet, that we shall first attempt a description, conceiving that, in point of antiquity, its claims take precedence. We are indebted principally to the labours of that learned antiquary, Dr. Stukeley, for the fullest account of such parts of the Hermen Street as fall within the scope of this work, and which will be found in a former part thereof. This road enters the hamlet of Old Sleaford, about half a mile to the south of what was Lord Hussey's house, (now called "the Old Place,") by some enclosed pastures in tenure of the occupier of the Old Place, and proceeds thence in a north-easterly direction, nearly in a straight line, part of it being on rather high ground, and other parts lying in a hollow, and very easily to be traced, to the turnpike road leading to Boston (which crosses it), and then proceeded along a hollow, now called "Old Eau Lane," to the east of the Old Place, and adjoining the homestead, to the ford near *Coggleford Mill*. This lane and ford were passable and in use, till the Act for making the stream navigable, A. D. 1792, did away with the ford, and not providing a bridge, rendered the Eau Lane unserviceable; it was afterwards stopped up at the end next to the turnpike, and the hedge on the east being removed, it now forms part of a pasture in the parish of Kirkby Laythorpe, called "the Hoplands."

The Church formerly standing in Old Sleaford comes next to be considered. In a survey of the possessions belonging to the "Monastery of the Blessed Marie of Haverholme," in this county, in the year 1535, is the following extract relating to this church. "Monastery of Haverholme. Sp'ual' p'tm' Mon' P'dict'. Rectoria de Veter' Lafford xls. Repris'in. Pen'coe solut' rector' de Quaryngton exeunt' de eccl'ia de vet'i Lafford xxs., &c." From this it is seen that the inappropriate Rectory of Old Sleaford belonged to the Monastery of Haverholm, and that a certain payment was made to the Rector of Quarrington from the church of Old Sleaford.

The earliest records we have been able to meet with, which have any reference to a church in this place, lead us back to a period of something more than three hundred years; in which we find that "Robertus Grayme, was presented by the Prior and Convent of Haverholme to the Vicarage of Old Sleaford, in the year 1503." Next follows "Richardus Symson who was also presented by the same, A. D. 1505;" to whom succeeded "Johannes Thomasson, who was likewise presented by the above Prior, &c. to this Old Sleaford Vicarage in the year 1507." It is impossible to forbear noticing, although unable to account for, the rapid succession of Incumbents in these three first named Vicars. It is scarcely probable that the sweeping hand of death should have so quickly removed these cobwebs of mortality; and it appears more reasonable to refer these hasty changes to the extent of patronage enjoyed by the Monastery of Haverholm, by which it would naturally occur that frequent changes among their clergy would take place, from smaller to better endowed benefices; and, as Old Sleaford Vicarage was of very little value, it was not likely to be long retained. The "Valor Ecclesiasticus, twenty-sixth Henry VIII.," gives us *inter alia* the name of the Vicar of this church in the year 1535. "Vet'

Lafford. Rector' ibm' impropri' monasti'u de Hav'holm'. D' Gadfrido Wodnot, vicar', ibm' &c. An'nal' pene' solut' rector' de Quarryngton, xxs." To this Geoffry Wodnot succeeded "Robertus Walker, who was presented to the Vicarage of Lafford Vetus (alias Old Sleaford), A. D. 1538, by king Henry VIII.," who, it seems, claimed the patronage after the dissolution of Haverholm Monastery: but whether this last presentation took place on the avoidance by death, resignation, or deprivation, of Geoffry Wodnot, who was presented, we conceive, by the Prior of Haverholm, is not said.

The above is all we have been able to collect of the state and condition of this church, but it will suffice to prove that there was a church in this hamlet, so late as the year 1538.

In "Ecton's Liber Regis," the church of Old Sleaford is called a Vicarage, and dedicated to St. Giles. The Earl of Bristol, patron.

It is at this time unknown whether this Vicarage was ever legally united to the Rectory of Quarrington, to which church Old Sleaford now pays rates, or at what time the church was destroyed or dilapidated. It is but reasonable, however, to conclude that this church was destroyed not long after the time of lord Hussey's attainder, A. D. 1538; but if not then, most assuredly it was not in existence in the year 1636. To this latter conclusion we are led more especially, from the circumstance that in the endowment of Sir Robert Carr's Hospital in Sleaford, A. D. 1636, the incumbents of New Sleaford, Quarrington, Kirkby, Aswarby, and Asgarby, are nominated perpetual trustees; whereas, as Sir Robert Carr was living in Old Sleaford at the time of this grant, and in a house adjoining the site of the church, and was owner of nearly the whole lordship, surely had there been a Vicar there, he would, undoubtedly, have been made a trustee.

There can be no question as to the situation of the church,

SLEAFORD.

viz. in a field adjoining and on the east side of the Old Place, bounded on the east by the Old Eau Lane, beforementioned. In the year 1822, on deepening the ditch which divides the above field from this lane, several (seven we believe,) human graves were discovered, parallel with each other, and situate due east and west, at the extremity, as it is supposed, of the church-yard.

To this brief account of the ancient road, and of the church that formerly stood in this place, but of which so little now remains to gratify an antiquary, we add the following account of Lord Hussey, and the house in which he dwelt, collected, as will be seen, from a variety of sources. Leland, speaking of "the house or manor place, lately almost new builded of stone and timbre by the Lorde Husey," says, that it "standith southeward withoute the towne:" and again, speaking of the town of Sleaford, he says, "the ornamentes of it is the Bishop of Lincoln's castelle, and the late Lorde Husey's house." So that, from what is here stated, we come to the conclusion that this "house or manor place" was built, or rather re-built, by the Lord Hussey sometime about the year 1500; but by what means he or his ancestors became possessed of this estate, we are not enabled satisfactorily to determine. We have, however, sufficient reason to believe, that the said estate was in the possession of the Hussey family for a considerable length of time previous to the above period; for we find a John Hussey, esquire, (grandfather of the Lord Hussey mentioned above,) living at Old Sleaford in the nineteenth year of the reign of Henry VI. (A. D. 1441.)^a Of this ancient baronial residence, nothing now remains but the "outer gate and postern," taken notice of by Gough. A farm-house, built out of the ruins of the same, and which is correctly represented in the annexed

^a Vide Cart. penes Br. Marchionem Exon.

engraving, remained on part of the site thereof, till the year 1822, when it was almost wholly taken down, and the present building erected. In taking down the chimneys several carved stones were met with, but which doubtless were placed there several years after the house was built, viz. at the time when open chimneys came into disuse. These stones, it is more than probable, formerly constituted part of the church, as well as those which were discovered in a close to the north of the building, in digging a trench for an under-drain, in the above year. A quantity of stained glass also, was found at the same time, in digging the foundations for some additional buildings.



This is all that can be gathered relative to the residence of Lord Hussey; but we find that this unfortunate nobleman was, in the early part of the reign of king Henry VIII., remarkable for his loyalty, and apparently firm attachment, to his sovereign; and from his large possessions was regarded, no doubt, as a personage of much importance in this county. Of his loyalty, and watchfulness over his sovereign's interests,

the following letter, written by him from Sleaford, the year not mentioned, but undoubtedly in 1537, will afford sufficient proof. This letter is said to have been sent to some commanding officer or magistrate at Lincoln, apprising him of an insurrection in Lindsey, and ordering certain precautions to be taken; and it appears to have been written in consequence of a communication made to him from the Dean of Lincoln.

"In my right herty manner I recommend me unto you, Advertysing the same, that this daye at ix of the clocke in the mornyng, I had word from the Dean of Lincoln that there is a company of fals rebellious knaves rysen and gathered to gether in Lyndsey; wherefore, I will advise you, and in the King's behalf I commaunde you that ye do see the citie of Lyncoln surely kept, so that there passe no suche evyll desposed persons thorough the same: And further that ye be in redynes with suche company as ye can make, to serve the King in suppressing the same, if nede requyres: And that ye immediatly cause furthwith all the bowes and arrowes being in the bowers' and fletchers' hands to be taken up at a reasonable price, if ye so nede: And that ye handle this matter so discretely and secretely as ye can; And if ye see cause that ye be not able to resist, send me word, And I shalbe redy at all tymes to assist you with suche power as I can make. And thus fare ye well. From Sleaford, this tuesday the iij^d daye of October, with the hande of

" Yours to —

" JOHN HUSSE."^a

^a Cottonian MSS., Vespasian, F. 113, folio 116.

He was created a Baron by King Henry VIII., A. D. 1529, and forfeited his title with his life ere ten short summers' suns had run their course; so uncertain, and so unstable, are all human possessions! Of the strange reverses in this man's circumstances and sentiments, we read, in a general way, in the History of England, in the time of Henry the Eighth's reign, and years 1537 and 8; but the following extracts will exhibit the matter in a varied manner, and may, perhaps, add a new interest to the subject.

"Henry Courtney, Earle of Devonshire, Marques of Exeter, cousin german to the Kinge, Lord High Steward, at the arraignment of the Lorde Darcy, and the Lorde Hussy, and both of them found guilty of the insurrection of Yorkshire, where noe fewer then forty thousand had gathered together, naminge them selves Fellowes of the holy pilgrimage, and that the specious pretext of Religion might palliate their madnesse, they in the Enseignes on the one side portrayted a crucifix, and on the other side a chalice and the host, by them called the body of the Lord,"^a

"In the latter end of June was the Lord Darcie beheaded at the Tower hill, and shortlie after the Lord Huseie was likewise beheaded at Lincoln."^b

The following passages from "Baker's Chronicle" explain, perhaps, the immediate cause of the commotions, in connexion with which these noblemen met with a premature death. "In the month of June, 1537, the Bishops and all the Clergy had a solemn Convocation at *Paul's Church* in *London*; where after much disputation, and debating of matters, they published a Book of Religion; intituled, *Articles devised by the King's Highness*: in which book are specially mentioned but

^a Harl. MSS. No. 2194, folio 18.

^b Hollinshed's Chronicle.

three Sacraments: namely, Baptism, Eucharist, and Penance; also certain Injunctions were set forth, whereby many of the old Holy-days were abrogated, specially those that fell in Harvest time.

"On the eighteenth of July, the Lord Cromwell was made Vicar General, under the King, over the Spirituality; who sate divers times in the Convocation House, amongst the Bishops as head over them: and now was the state of Religion in England come to a strange pass; because always in passing, and had no consistence; for at first the authority of the Pope was excluded in some cases only, a while after in all; but yet his Doctrine was wholly retained. Afterward, his Doctrine came to be impugned, but in some few points only: a while after in many more: that the fable of *Proteus* might no longer be a fable, when the Religion in England might be his true moral: and indeed it could be no otherwise; the distance between the two Religions being not possible to be passed *per saltum*; but must be done by degrees, which degrees may be observed in the progress of the story; for where at first, it was permitted only to read the Bible in *English*, now it came to be permitted to pray in *English*; for now in September, the Lord Cromwell set forth Injunctions, to have the Lord's Prayer, the Ave. the Creed, the ten Commandments, and all Articles of the Christian Faith, translated into *English*, and to be taught by all Parsons and Curates to their Parishioners: which Innovation so stirred up the people, that in *Lincolnshire* they assembled to the number of twenty thousand; against whom the King himself went in person, who winning by persuasion their chief leaders, brought the rest upon pardon to submit themselves:^a but when he had

^a What persuasive language he might use to the *leaders* is not known, but the following, which he is said to have addressed to the rest, is recorded. He

himself done the work of mercy, he afterward sent the Duke of *Suffolk*, with Sir *Francis Brian*, and Sir *John Russel*, to do the work of justice; who caused *Nicholas Melton*, and a Monk naming himself Captain *Cobler*,^a and thirteen others (ringleaders of the sedition), to be apprehended, and most of them to be executed."

It does not appear that the Lord *Hussey* was concerned in the first rebellion, mentioned above; but after relating various formidable risings of the people in the north, and other parts of the island, for the same causes, the Chronicle proceeds to state that "neither yet was there an end of Commotions; for in the latter end of this eight and twentieth year, the Lord *Darcy*, the Lord *Hussey*, Sir *Robert Constable*, Sir *John Bulmer* and his wife, Sir *Thomas Piercy* brother to the Earl of *Northumberland*, Sir *Stephen Hamilton*, *Nicholas Tempest*, Esquire, and others, began to conspire, although each of them before had been pardoned by the king; but this, as being but the fagge-end of the Commotion, was soon suppressed, the Lord *Darcy* was beheaded on the Tower-hill, the Lord *Hussey* at Lincoln, Sir *Robert Constable* was hanged in chains at Hull, Sir *John Bulmer's* paramour was burnt in Smithfield, and most of the others were executed at Tyburn. *Tanta molis erat*, so great a matter it was, to make the Realm be quiet, in so great innovations of Religion."

The popular account of the latter days of this once enviable, but ill advised and ruined nobleman, is, that he, joining the

told them "he had never read or heard that rude and ignorant common people were meet persons to discern and choose sufficient counsellors for a prince; how presumptuous then were they, the rude commons of one shire, and that one of the most brute and beastly of the whole realm, thus to take upon them to rule their king!" BOOK OF THE CHURCH, chap. 12, p. 63.

^a A name assumed by Dr. Mackerel, Prior of Barlings or Berlings.

Insurrection in the north of England, more in the character of an accomplice, than as taking an active and leading part, was attainted of high treason, and, though not present at his trial, was tried and condemned in a summary way, together with another nobleman, the Lord Darcy, a descendant of the De Arcy's of Nocton Park, in this neighbourhood, which latter person was beheaded on the Tower Hill, London; but Lord Hussey seems to have been concealed for a time, but at length was discovered in a house of his own at Lincoln, and being dragged violently out at a window, was taken to the Castle Yard, and forthwith beheaded, agreeable to the sentence pronounced on him at his trial in London.

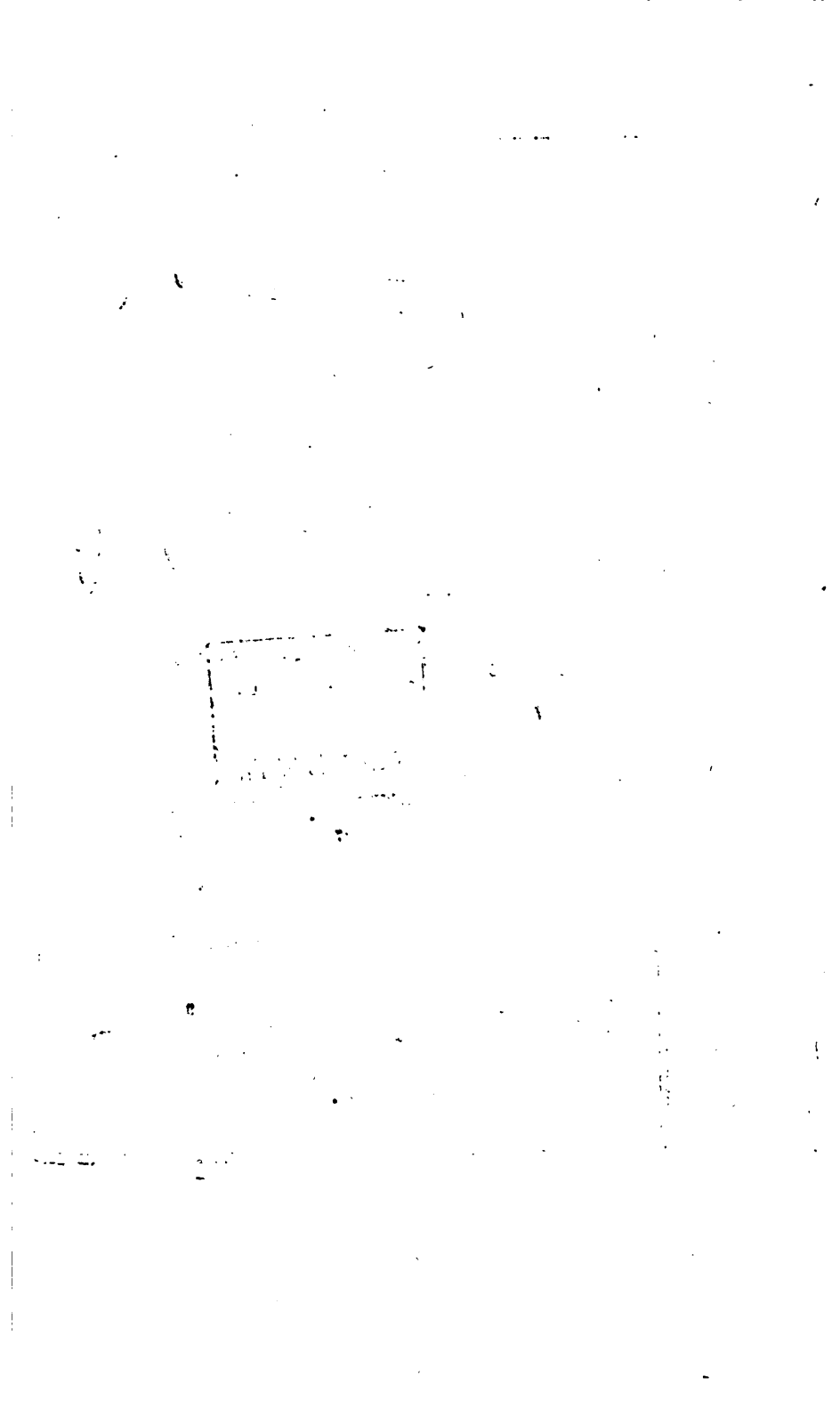
The estate in this place and the vicinity, at that time worth £5000. per annum, shortly after came into the possession of a Carr, whose descendants proved such liberal benefactors to the poor of this place and New Sleaford. It is not known in what manner this estate passed into the family of the Carrs; but the common notion of its being given to a servant of the name of Carr, for services rendered to the state by informing against his master, is too contemptible to merit a serious refutation. To a candid inquirer, however, into this *idle tale*, two reasons may, perhaps, suffice to show the folly of the above supposition. The first is, that, at the time of Lord Hussey's attainder, Mr. Carr was a rich merchant of the staple at Sleaford. But, perhaps, the second reason for concluding the estate was not *given* to Mr. Carr, will prove convincing to almost every reader,—we mean the covetous disposition of king Henry: for it is not at all probable, that a Monarch, who, to enrich himself, had dissolved, without due consideration of consequences, and without mercy, so many houses of the religious in this kingdom, should feel disposed to give so large and valuable an estate as that of Lord Hussey's, to any subject.

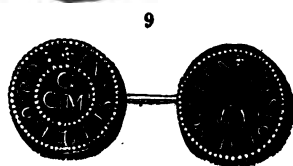
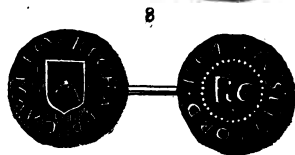
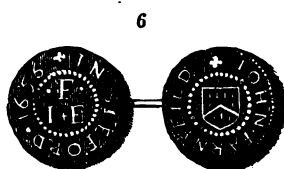
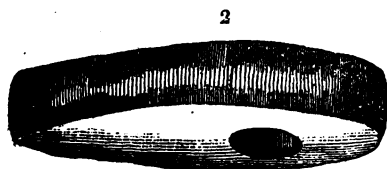
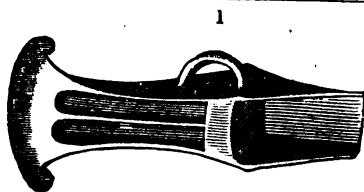
To the above lengthened account of so inconsiderable a place as Old Sleaford, little remains to be added: still, in conformity with our plan, we attempt a short description of its present state, relating chiefly to population and houses. It has been said that the population here was, anciently, much more considerable than at this time; and that the many foundations of buildings still to be traced, clearly prove this to have been the case. This argument we consider as no criterion, because it has been well ascertained, to have been the custom of former times, never to rase the foundations of houses that were decayed and unfit for use, but to build others in fresh situations; and the only mode we have of drawing a comparative statement of the population here, is from a record in the reign of queen Elizabeth, nearly three hundred years ago, by which it will appear that the number of families have increased, since that time, more than five-fold.

Lafford Veteris,—Familiae 11.—Eliz. Regina.
Old Sleaford, — Ditto 56.—A. D. 1824.

We have no way by which to compare the number of dwellings at distant different periods, but at this time there are forty-eight; and it is most probable, though it does not follow as a matter of course, that the number of dwellings also, have increased in the same ratio with its population.

There are six hundred and fifty-four acres of land in this place, chiefly pasture land, and some of it of an excellent quality, more particularly adjoining, and in the vicinity of, the Old Place.





ANTIQUITIES FOUND AT, OR RELATING TO, NEW AND OLD SLEAFORD, &c.

THE first thing that we shall notice under this head, is the brass celt, *Fig. 1*, in the annexed engraving. This celt, which is quite perfect, and in a high state of preservation, was found in the year 1818, in the Old River, directly in that place where the Roman road crossed the same. The purposes for which these instruments were originally designed, we are not able satisfactorily to explain. Some have supposed them to have been intended for chisels for hewing or cutting stone; others, that they were warlike weapons; while others, again, are inclined to believe them of a much more ancient date, and to assign as the use to which they were appropriated a widely different one; namely, to have been in the hands of the Britons, instruments for the slaughtering of oxen in their religious sacrifices. Mr. Gale, an antiquary of some note, in a letter to Sir John Clerk, speaking of similar instruments, says, "How and for what purpose they were used I will not take upon me to determine, absolutely; but by their edges, which are much broken and battered, they seem to have been employed as chisels for cutting stone. I believe they put a wooden staff in the hollow end of them, and so drove them with a mallet. If the softness of the metal, and consequently its unsuitness for such work is objected; I answer, that when they had not a better, necessity would compel them to use such as they had; besides most sort of stones are soft when they are bedded in, and at their first coming out of the quarry, that they might make a very good shift to cut it, and

cleave it with their tools, where it was under these easy circumstances; to which I may add, that these brass chisels are of a much harder temper than we know how to give that metal, as are also their swords, which are made of it, and other weapons. The shaft, when not employed, might be drawn out of the chisels, and by running a string through the ring on their sides, several of them might be tied together, and conveniently carried by the workman at his girdle, or otherwise, and one shaft serve them all. So many of these brass chisels have been found in this island, and so few any where else, and those only in France, that they seem almost to have been the peculiar tools of the Britons; their near alliance and intercourse with the Gauls easily accounting why they have been sometimes discovered in the ancient seat of the latter."^a

Sir J. Clerk in reply, observes, that "Nothing is more mysterious than the use of those instruments of brass, which resemble small hatchets or chisels. I incline to think them warlike instruments, as we generally take the stone hatchets to be. The Romans understood better the expeditious ways of doing things than to make use of such slight and brittle tools. We must then ascribe them to the Ancient Britons, who used instruments of brass before iron came to take place. What makes me judge they were no chisels, is, that the Britons made very little use of hewn stone, and for that reason little or nothing of their stone monuments does remain."

The flint axe, *Fig. 2*, was found in the year 1815, in digging gravel on a hill, a little to the east of Sleaford, and abutting on the turnpike road leading thence to Tattershall. These hatchets, we have every reason to believe, in concur-

^a Biblio. Top. Britt., vol. II, pp. 246,—8. ^b Ibid, pp. 249 & 250.

ance with what is stated above, were implements of war, and without doubt belonged to the Ancient Britons.

The two spear-heads, *Figs. 3 and 4*, were found at South Kyse, in the year 1820, by some workmen who were employed in digging away a bank of earth. One of them measures ten inches and a half, and the other seven and a half in length. These instruments are of brass, and no doubt belonged to the same people as the above, the Romans having, it is said, left off the use of brass in their weapons previously to their arrival in this island.

The annexed plate also contains engravings of five different tradesmen's tokens, *Figs. 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9*, four of which were issued at Sleaford, and the other at Helpringham, in the middle of the seventeenth century, at which time similar ones, in consequence of the scarcity of small coin, were issued in most places in this kingdom. They were called *Harringtons*, from their being first coined at Harrington, and continued current until the year 1671, when the King's copper halfpence and farthings were issued.* The three Sleaford tokens, issued by John Farnfield, Richard Cawdron, and Christopher Green, together with the spear-heads and axes, above described, are in the possession of the Rev. Richard Yerburgh, D. D. The other Sleaford token, issued by James Adamson, is in the hands of Mr. Jacobson, surgeon; and the Helpringham one, of Mr. R. Taylor of Heckington.

Innumerable coins of the Romans have, at different times, been found about the Castle, the Old Place, and various other parts of Sleaford. Dr. Stukeley says "At Sleaford they have found many Roman coins, especially of the Constantine family and their wives, about the castle and the spring-head, a little

* Vide Beauties of England and Wales.

above the town.”^a And he further observes, that “Mrs. Tichmus of Stamford told me she once had many Roman coins, from a great parcel found at or near Sleaford.”^b Gough mentions the following coins as being found near Sleaford, in the year 1748; viz. One of Nero, middle brass, *SECVRITAS AVGVSTI*: of Commodus, *figura militaris gradien*: of D. N. Constantius Nob. Cæs. *SALVS D. N. N. AVG*, the monogram with *AN*: and in the ruins of the castle, coins of Tetricus. jun.^c Several coins, which appear to have been struck about Constantius’s time, with a galeate and *VRBS ROMA* on one side, and on the reverse a wolf suckling Romulus and Remus, have been found here, especially about the Old Place. Indeed, from the quantity of different coins found in the year 1822, when the house was repairing, about the gardens belonging thereto, and particularly in a piece of land adjoining Old Eau Lane, called the “Chapel close,” we might almost suppose that the ground had been literally sown with them.

Several human skeletons have, of late years, been dug up in the neighbourhood of Sleaford. In the spring of the year 1824, as some labourers were digging for gravel in a close belonging to Sir. J. Thorold, baronet, abutting on the road leading from Sleaford to Grantham, and about a mile and a half from the former town, they discovered, about three feet below the surface, the remains of seven human bodies, together with some pieces of armour, part of a vase, &c., but how long they had lain there we are not able to divine. Several of the bones were in a mouldering state, and appeared as if they had been half consumed by fire: there was also a stratum, about three or four feet from the surface of the ground, between two substances of gravel—the top one light,

^a *Itinerarium Curiosum*, p. 9. ^b *Ibid.* ^c Gough’s *Camden*, vol. ii, p. 356.

and the bottom solid, which seemed to be composed of ashes and burnt bones;—many of the bones being of a blue colour, and others entirely white. The jaws of one of the skeletons contained a complete set of teeth with the enamel upon them.

From the manner in which the bones lay, the bodies appear to have been regularly buried; and from the circumstance of pieces of armour being found near them, they are supposed to have been warriors. That they were not soldiers slain in the civil wars of 1643 we are well assured,—they having lain there longer than since that time; neither did Cromwell ever come to any engagement in this neighbourhood. That they may have been persons who came to their end, and whose bodies were deposited there in Henry the Eighth's time, during the disturbances in Lincolnshire, we will not take upon us to deny, as skirmishes at that time took place in various parts of the county.

A few weeks previous to the above discovery, a human skeleton was found at *Bully-wells*, by some men who were digging stone for lime. It seemed as if the body had been buried close to an old lime kiln, and from the manner in which the bones lay, must doubtless have been a murder committed at some time or other. If we may hazard a conjecture from the preservation of the bones, we may suppose them to have lain there about sixty or eighty years.

GENEALOGY AND BIOGRAPHY.

HUSSEY FAMILY.

Arms.—Quarterly, first and fourth, or, a cross vert. second and third, 6 ermine and gules. **Crest.**—On a wreath or and vert, a hind, ducally gorged, and lined, or.

THIS name in registers, records, histories, and memorials has been variously written, as Hussey, H and anciently Huse, Husee, Hoese, Hause; yet the and family, as Mr. Camden observes, may be considered same. The Hoeses of Herting, in the county of summoned to parliament among the barons of the realm Huse of Beechworth; and of the name of Hussee, the barons of Galtrim, in the kingdom of Ireland.

But whether the Husseys of Steaford was derived either of the beforementioned lines, we cannot exactly although from the arms, it seems likely it is from the of Beechworth.^a Be this however as it may, the first who can be fixed upon as the ancestor of this family. William Hussey first named in the subjoined pedigree according to Vincent, 10 fo., 60 b., in the College of was a knight, that he married a daughter of — I and by her had issue a son, John, who married Eli

^a Collins, in his Baronetage, asserts, that this family bore their armorially, viz. "First and fourth, O. a cross vert. second and third, b ermine and gules."

Baronage.

..... Sheffield.

co.
31.

Thomas Hussey.

Knt. ob. 28 May, 38
of Lincolnshire, 34
ne, dau. & coh. of
Hall, in Essex, Esq.
aus. & 1 son, Tho.
31 May, 1 Eliz.d
Stydolfe, by whom he
ussey, of Honington,
Jan. 6 James I.e

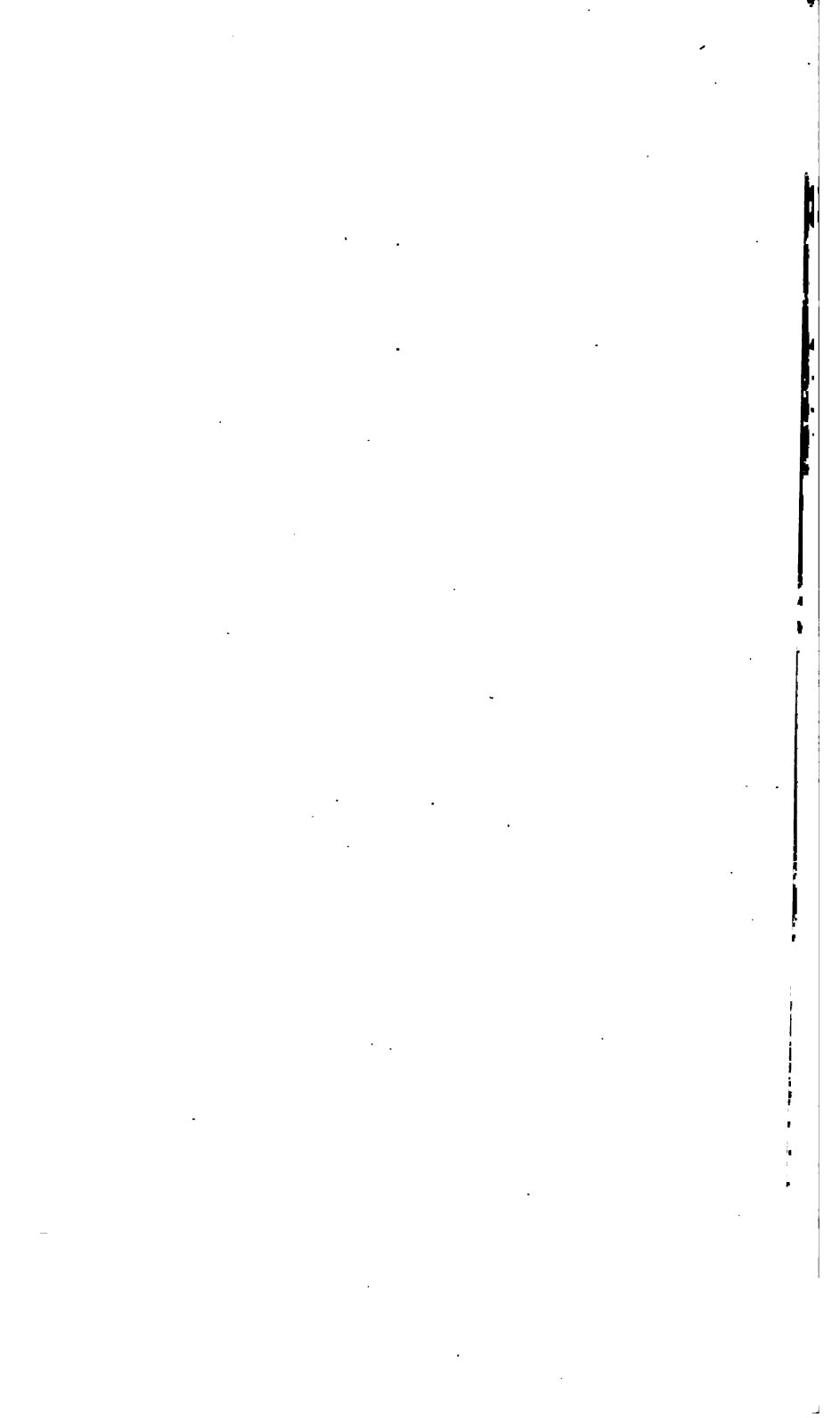
Gilbert.
Peter.

.....
of
.....
Sheffield,
York-
re.

Thomas,
Reginald,
s. p.

Gilbert,
mar. the
dau. of
Tiring-
ham.

es, of Aske, Yorkshire, Esq.
Sir Robert Bowes, Knts.



of — Sheffield, by whom he had issue two sons, a Hussey, knight, and Thomas; the latter of whom, Gilbert, married to the daughter of — Whithill, and another son, Peter, an Archdeacon.

William Hussey, eldest son of the abovenamed John, who seems by his arms being formerly in the windows of the Inn hall, to have been a student of the laws in that Inn, rose to great eminence in his profession. He was a Commissioner of Sewers for the parts of Kesteven in this year, in the seventh year of the reign of Edward IV. (1467); appointed Attorney General to the king on the sixteenth of May, 1471, with power to depute clerks and officers under every court of record; called to the degree of Sergeant at Law, the seventeenth of Edward IV.; appointed Chief Justice of the King's Bench, the twenty-first of the same year, on the death of Chief Justice Billing, and continued in that office, by successive patents, of the first of Edward IV. and Richard III. (1483). In the second of Richard III., he was appointed one of the King's Commissioners for treating with the Commissioners from James, King of Scotland, concerning the marriage of James, eldest son and heir apparent of the latter, with Anne the niece of Richard III., daughter of John, Duke of Suffolk. In the first of Henry VII., he continued, by patent, in the office of Chief Justice of the King's Bench. He was appointed one of the Commissioners to the array of archers in the county of Lincoln, to be sent to the relief of Brittany, in the fourth of the same reign; and the year following, was appointed one of the Commissioners to treat of peace, as well between Charles, King of France, and Anne, Duchess of Brittany, as between the Kings of France and England; and in the year 1481, was again appointed a Commissioner to treat of peace with the King of France. He died the eighth day of Sep-

tember, 1495, (eleventh Henry VII.) leaving by his will Elizabeth the daughter of Thomas Berkeley of Wymondley in the county of Leicester, esquire, John his eldest son and heir; William, of whom descended the Husseys of Yorkshire and Robert, whose posterity long flourished in the male line at their seats at Honington and Caythorpe, in this county, where numerous monumental inscriptions still remain to the memory; and are now represented by Charles James Pauley esquire, of Hanthorpe House in the parish of Morton, in the same county; also two daughters, Elizabeth, wife of Richard Grey, Earl of Kent, and Mary, wife of William Lord Willoughby.

Sir John Hussey, eldest son beforementioned, was thirty years of age at the death of his father. He was in the service of king Henry VII. at the battle of Stoke, near Newark upon Trent, against John, Earl of Lincoln, and the supporters of Lambert Simnel, fought on the sixteenth of June, 1487; and in the ninth of Henry VII. he served the office of Sheriff for this county. In the fifth of Henry VIII., being then a Knight of the King's body, and about to attend him in his wars, he had letters of protection; and in the twelfth of the same reign he was appointed by the King, then at Calais, to treat with the Ambassadors of the Hanse towns, concerning the abuse of privileges granted to them by the King's ancestors, and concerning monies due from them to the King. In the year 1522 he was appointed Chief Butler of England, and the year following, was one of the Knights appointed to be at Canterbury, on the seventh of May, to attend the King on the coming of the Emperor into England. He was summoned among the Barons of the Realm to the parliament which commenced at the Preaching Friars, London, on the third of November, twenty-first Henry VIII., bearing the title of Lord Hussey of Sleaford, where he built himself a noble

house; and he was admitted amongst the Peers on the first of December following, at Westminster, where the House was then sitting by adjournment. In the twenty-second of Henry VIII. he was one of the Lords who subscribed the memorial sent to the Pope, intimating that if he did not comply with the King's wishes relative to his intended divorce from Queen Catharine, the papal supremacy would not be much longer owned in England. He appears to have been one of the Lords of the King's Council, in the twenty-fourth of Henry VIII., and in the twenty-fifth and twenty eighth of the same reign, he sat in parliament as a Baron: but in October, in the latter year, rashly engaging in the common insurrection, when the feuds and differences about religion first broke out in England, he was attainted of high treason, his manor of Old Sleaford, with lands to the value of £5000. per annum, adjacent, confiscated, and he himself beheaded at Lincoln in June following.^a His children were restored in blood by Parliament, in the fifth of queen Elizabeth, but without restitution of the title or estate. He was twice married; his first wife was Margaret daughter and heir of Sir Simon Blount, of Mangotsfield in Gloucestershire, knight, and widow of Sir John Barr, of Barr's Court in the same county, by whom he had one son, Sir William Hussey, who was Sheriff of Lincolnshire, twenty-second Henry VIII., and who married the daughter of Sir Robert Lovel, knight; his second wife was Anne daughter of George Grey, Earl of Kent, by whom he

^a "Some few years since, on digging in a place which had formerly been a garden, in the city of Lincoln, the stone coffin of this John Lord Hussey was discovered, with a stone near it in an old wall, which had on it an inscription, purporting whose body lay there interred. But, as the workmen were employed to fill up a well, they cast the coffin therein, along with other rubbish and materials to complete the job." *BANKS'S BARONAGE*, vol. ii. p. 289.

had four sons, Giles, Thomas, Gilbert, and Reginald; and five daughters, Bridget, Elizabeth, Anne, Mary, and Dorothy.

Sir Giles Hussey, eldest son of Lord Hussey by his second wife, had his residence at Caythorpe, in this county, and was knighted by the Earl of Surrey, then Admiral, upon the sacking of Morlaix on the coast of France, A. D. 1522.

CARR FAMILY.

ANNA.—Quarterly, first and second, G. on a chevron, arg. 3 mullets, sq. second and third, Or, an orle, B. CREST.—A stag's head couped, arg. attired, or, about his neck 2 bars gemelles, G.

It appears by the annexed pedigree, that Richard Carr, second son of —, was the earliest known branch of this family, from whom descended John Carr, who married a daughter of Sir John Elmedon or Elmedine, knight, by whom he had two sons, viz. George and James.

George Carr, whom Leland says was a rich Merchant of the Staple,^a died in the year 1521, and was buried in Sleaford church, leaving by his wife, Anne the daughter of — Flower, one son,

Robert Carr, who married three wives, viz. Elizabeth, daughter of William Cawdron, of Little Hale in this county, esquire; Anne, daughter of Sir George Talboys, knight; and Anne daughter of Charles Knivett. By his first wife he had issue four sons and three daughters, viz. George Carr, who married Mary, daughter of Ambrose Sutton, of Burton in this county, by whom he had one son, Robert,^b who was Sheriff of Lincolnshire, A. D. 1581, and died without issue, and a

^a Leland's Itinerary, vol. i. p. 22.

^b This Robert Carr was the founder of the Grammar School in Sleaford.

PEDIGREE of the CARR FAMILY,

As entered amongst others of the gentry of this county at the Herald's visitation in 1666, with a continuation.

Richard Carr, second son of =

John Carr of the North. = dau. of Sir John Elmedon, or Elmedine, of the Bishoprick, Knt.

George Carr.=Anne, dau. of Flower. James Carr.

....., dau. of=Robert Carr=Elizabeth, dau. of Wm. Cawarden or Charles Knevet. of Slyford in Cawdron, first wife. int. 3 martlets. =Anne, dau. of George Talboyes, relict of Irby. com. Lanc. s. in cheff. s. 3 cros crosetts, or. relict of Dymock, wife to Rob. Carr.

George Carr.=Mary, dau. of Robert, 2nd. William 3rd. Anne, dau. of=Edward, 4th.=Katherine, Bridget, Elizabeth, Anne, mar. of Sleaford, Amb. Sutton, son, marr. son, marr. Sir R. Dyer, son, Knt. and dau. of Cha. ux. Ro- 1st, marr. Anne, mar. 1st, son, of Burton, in Cassandra, Bridget, dau. of Stoughton, baronet. Bolles, Knt. binson. to William to Robert com. Lanc. dau. of of Geo. Cha- in com. Lanc. and Bart. Rarefax, 2. Whichcott, Price, relict worth. s. p. Knt, to C. Kelk, 2d. to ... of Welby.

Robert Carr, Elizabeth, Sir Robert Carr,=Mary, dau. of Sir Rochester Carr, Lucy, of Sleaford. ux. Lison. Knt. and Baronet Richard Gargrave, 2nd. son, sine prole. 1633. of in c. York.

Elizabeth. Mary. Sir Robert Carr,=Elizabeth, dau. of Sir John Bennett, Another daughter Knt. and Bart. of Harlington, in com. Middlesex. Sir Edward Carr, baronet, Robert Carr. Isabella Carr, married to John died unmarried. died a minor. Hervey, Earl of Bristol.

1871

daughter, Elizabeth, married to — Lison,—Robert, William, and Edward,—Bridget, Elizabeth, and Anne. This Robert had granted to him by Henry VIII., the Priory of Catley at the general dissolution;^a he died in the year 1590, and was buried in Sleaford church, where a fine monument still remains to his memory,^b leaving Edward his fourth son and heir, which

Edward Carr was created a Baronet, A. D. 1611, and was Sheriff of this county in the year 1615. He married first, Anne daughter of Sir Richard Dyer, of Stoughton in this county, knight, and second, Katharine daughter of Sir Charles Bolles, knight and baronet. By Anne, his first wife, he had issue, Robert his successor, Rochester, and Lucy who died, it is said, whilst on a visit to the family of Cromwell, alias Williams, the owners of Ramsey Abbey, Huntingdonshire, in the church yard whereof she lies buried, under a brick tomb, on the top of which is a black marble slab, bearing the following inscription:—

Here lyes y^e body of Lucy Carr, y^e only daughter of Sr. Edward Carr, Knt. and Barronett, of Sleyford in Lincolne Sheire. Deseaced Octo. 18th, in y^e yeare of our Lord 1683, Aged 66. Shee dyed without issue, beeing y^e wife of Henry English, Esquire.

The above-named Edward Carr died in the year 1618, and lies buried in Sleaford church, of whose monument an engraving is given at page fifty-six of this work.

Sir Robert Carr, knight and baronet, founder of the Hospital or Alms House in New Sleaford, appears to have been one of the nobility found fit and qualified to be made Knights of the

^a Tanner's Notitia Monastica, p. 268.

^b The inscription on this monument rather differs from the pedigree.

Royal Oak, A. D. 1660, which order was intended, by King Charles II., as a reward to several of his followers; the Knights of which were to wear a silver medal with the device of the King in the Oak, pendant to a ribbon, about their necks; but it was thought proper, however, to lay it aside, lest it might create heats and animosities, and open those wounds afresh, which at that time were thought proper should be healed.^a He married Mary the daughter of Sir Richard Gargrave, of — in the county of York, and died in the year 1667, leaving issue, three daughters, and

Sir Robert Carr, baronet, who was appointed Chancellor of the Dutchy of Lancaster, in the year 1672, which elevated situation he held eight years, when he was succeeded by Sir Thomas Ingram, knight. He was elected Member of Parliament for the borough of Preston, in the county of Lancaster, with Edward Righy, esquire, A. D. 1678, and in the year 1681, he was returned for the same borough, with Sir Jervise Elwys, which he represented till his death. He died at Aswarby in the year 1682, aged forty-five years, leaving by his wife Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir John Bennett, of Harlington in the county of Middlesex, knight, Isabel and

Sir Edward Carr, the fourth and last baronet, who dyed in the year 1684, aged eighteen years, and with whom ended the male succession.

Isabel Carr, the daughter and heiress of the last-mentioned Sir Robert Carr, married November 1st, 1686, the Honourable John Hervey, esquire, who was created Baron Hervey of Ickworth, A. D. 1703, and in the year 1714, Earl of Bristol, in whose family the estates in this place and neigh-

^a Wotton's Baronetage, vol. v, p. 363,

bourhood still continue. This lady died in child-bed of her second child, on the seventh of March, 1693.

Tradition states, and it is commonly believed here, that the rise of this family was occasioned by the circumstance of a Carr, (being a *servant* to Lord Hussey, at the time that he joined the Insurrection in Lincolnshire,) betraying the councils of his master, and on the attainder of Lord Hussey, was rewarded with his estates. But, we conceive, a slight attention to dates and other circumstances, will show this to be a "vulgar error." So early as the thirty-first of Henry VIII., (A. D. 1540,) the Priory of Catley was granted, as has been before stated, to Robert Carr of Sleaford, whose father was a rich Merchant of the Staple. Now Lord Hussey was beheaded only two years before this grant of the Priory; and it appears unlikely that the said Robert Carr should have ever been a *servant*, as his father, the rich merchant, will be seen to have died seventeen years before the execution of the said Lord Hussey. Likewise it may be remarked that, for some time before the same period, this family was distinguished by a "*Tumulus sup' solum*," or Table Monument, in Sleaford church.^a So that the greater probability appears to be, that Mr. Carr purchased of the Crown the estates forfeited by the attainder of Lord Hussey.

ALEXANDER DE BLOIS,

A Norman by birth; he was first made Archdeacon of Salisbury, then Lord Chief Justice of England, and at last preferred to the episcopal see of Lincoln in the year 1123,

^a The privilege of a tomb in the church was granted in those days, as well as at this time, to but very few persons, and to those only of families of distinction. Indeed, at that time, a *Tumulus sup solum* could scarcely be purchased for money, in any church in this part of the country.

and consecrated at Canterbury on the twenty-second of July, in the same year. From the habits of his education, he was fond of a luxurious and splendid style of living, and indulged himself so lavishly in ostentatious expense, that he was called in the court of Rome, Alexander the Magnificent.

This prelate expended vast sums, in imitation of the Barons and some of the Bishops of that time, in erecting castles: he had one at Banbury, another at this place, and a third at Newark. King Stephen had an earnest desire to get these castles into his power, and, as has been before related, imprisoned the Bishop until he obtained them. The Bishop being thus taught the vanity of his former actions, applied himself more seriously to his episcopal function, and made his church, (which he had before rebuilt, it having been accidentally burnt down, and secured it against a similar accident by a stone roof,) one of the most magnificent edifices in the kingdom. He built also three monasteries, one at Haverholm in the vicinity of Sleaford, of which an account will be found in this work; one at Thame in Oxfordshire, for White Monks, valued at the suppression at £88. 5s. 5d. per annum; and the other at Louth Park in this county, for Cisterians, valued at the suppression at £147. 14s. 6d. He also repaired the Monastery de Burgh (Peterborough), after a fire in the time of Henry I.

In the year 1142 he visited the court of Rome, and returned in the capacity of Legate from the Pope, with power to call a synod for regulating the affairs of the English church. He made a second journey to Rome in 1144; and two years after going into France to meet the Pope, he fell sick, and returning home with great difficulty, died soon afterwards. This prelate, instead of leaving behind him the "*monumentum aere perennius*," which genius alone can raise, left only perishable monuments of his munificence in public edifices.

RICHARD FLEMMING,

An English prelate in the fifteenth century, and founder of Lincoln college, Oxford, was born at Croston in the county of York. After receiving a classical education in his native country, he was sent to University college, Oxford. Soon after he had taken his degree of M. A. he warmly espoused the cause of Wickliff, and strenuously maintained his opinions. Means were found however, either to awe or bribe him into silence, for he afterwards, little to his credit, became as violent an opponent of that reformer's doctrines, as he formerly had been an advocate for them. To the zeal which he showed for preserving things as they were, he was probably indebted for his presentation to the vicarage of Boston, in this county, into which he appears to have been inducted sometime before the year 1415. By his learning and abilities, and perhaps by his zeal against the Wickliffites, he acquired the esteem of of king Henry V., and was promoted by that prince to the bishopric of Lincoln in the year 1420, having been first appointed by the Pope. He was sent deputy to the council of Constance, or Siena, and upon his return home, in subserviency to the unmanly and pitiful degree of that council, he caused the bones of Wickliff to be taken up and burnt. He was translated in the year 1424, by the Pope, to the see of York which was then vacant; but Henry V. being grown potent by his late conquest of France, so decidedly opposed it, that the Pope and prelate both thought it prudent to desist from maintaining its validity, and Dr. Flemming "was faine to return to Lincoln again." After this disappointment, our prelate pursued a design which he had formed for founding a college in Oxford, to be a seminary for divines, to write, preach, and dispute against the doctrines of Wickliff. Having for this purpose obtained a license from king Henry VI. in

the year 1427, he set about the erection of Lincoln college; but died at his palace at Sleaford A. D. 1431, before he had made any considerable progress in it, leaving, however, sufficient money and effects in the hands of trustees to complete the undertaking.

THOMAS GIBSON, A. M.,

Was born at Keswick in Cumberland, and educated at Queen's college, Oxford; and after being preferred to the Free School of Carlisle, and thence to that of Newcastle, was promoted by the Bishop of Carlisle, to the vicarage of Horncastle, in the year 1634.

This person exposed himself to the fury of the Parliamentarians, and after being imprisoned at Hull, Lincoln, and in Tattershall castle for a considerable time, and ejected from his living, was chosen master of the Free School at Newark, in the year 1644, from whence, two years afterwards, he removed to the School at this place, being presented to it by Lady Elizabeth Carr, where he resided until the restoration, and then, at the head of several hundreds of his friends, was restored to his Vicarage, in which he continued till his death, A. D. 1678, in the eighty-fourth year of his age.

GEORGE BOHEME,

A member of Cambridge University, was born in the city of Colberg, in Pomerania in Germany, A. D. 1628. His family came into England when he was young, but upon what occasion is not known. He first settled as a minister of this town, and his name first appears in the registers in the year 1656. This situation, however, he retained but four years, for we find that he was silenced (according to the term at that

time in use) and finally ejected, by the Act of Uniformity,^a in the year 1662. When he was thus silenced, partly that he might not be useless, and partly the better to maintain his family, he kept a school at Walcott, near Folkingham, for many years. He was much esteemed by several neighbouring gentlemen, who committed their children to his care, and had such satisfaction in the instruction he gave them, as to recommend him to others as the best master they knew. He for sometime preached in the church at Walcott, after his being silenced at Sleaford, and was connived at, as he read some of the prayers; but he was at length forbidden by bishop Gardiner, because not episcopally ordained. About seven years before his death he removed to his daughter's house at Folkingham, where he died on the ninth day of September, 1711, and, according to the inscription on his grave stone, which still remains in the church yard of that place, in the eighty-third year of his age. He wrote "Gospel Theism," which was published after his death.

WILLIAM SCOFFIN.

This person, who was ejected by the Bartholomew Act, from the living of Brothertoft in this county, became pastor of a congregation of Dissenters at Sleaford, where he continued to preach for more than forty years; through which long period, by his peaceable and candid disposition, he gained the esteem and respect of the whole neighbourhood, so that some of the principal inhabitants of the town, though they never

^a This was called the Bartholomew Act from its taking place on Bartholomew day, August 24th, 1662, when upwards of two thousand ministers were ejected or silenced, for not conforming to the "Book of Common Prayer," &c.

attended his ministry, expressed their value for him by making him annual presents as long as he lived. The life of this excellent man, like the constant tenor of it, ended with undisturbed serenity and peace, in the month of November, 1732, in the seventy-seventh year of his age. He published two funeral sermons and two other small tracts.

JAMES MOWBRAY, B. D.,

One of the Senior Fellows of St. John's college, Cambridge, a man of great piety and considerable learning, was ejected from the vicarage of Southwell in Nottinghamshire, upon title, in the year 1662, and removed the same year to Sleaford, where he resided some years, but how long, or where he died, is not known.

MOSES MELL,

Was born at Sibsey near Boston, and became minister of Kirton in the parts of Lindsey, from which place he was also ejected A. D. 1662, when he removed to Leasingham, near Sleaford and thence, about the year 1665, to Sleaford, where he continued the exercise of his ministry to a few that were desirous of his labours. Having an estate of his own, he was not chargeable to the people, and was of moderate principles and a most obliging carriage. "He went about doing good," and when he had continued to do so in Sleaford fifteen years, it pleased God to give him his quietus.

THEOPHILUS BRITTAINE,

Was Rector of Brocklesby in this county, till ejected by the Act of Uniformity in the year 1662. After being impr-

soned at Lincoln, he was appointed chaplain at Colonel King's at Ashby, near Sleaford, where he preached publicly till the Colonel's death; when he removed to Roxholm, in the parish of Leasingham, and took a small farm. In Monmouth's time he, together with Mr. Wright and Mr. Drake of Leasingham, was committed to Grantham gaol. He died in 1696, aged sixty-three years, and was buried at Sleaford,^a where he most probably had lived during a few of his latter years.

BENJAMIN FAWCETT,

Pastor for thirty-five years of a congregation of Baxterians, at Kidderminster, the author of several small works, and an abridgment of Baxter's "Saints' Everlasting Rest," and some other pieces by that divine, was born at Sleaford, A. D. 1715.

ANDREW KIPPIS,

That celebrated English Biographer, though not, strictly speaking, a native of this place, yet was, on the death of his father, A. D. 1730, when he was scarcely five years of age, removed to his paternal grandfather's at Sleaford. In this town he received his education at the Grammar School, under the Rev. William Seller, Vicar, and early exhibited proofs of great abilities and vast proficiency. In June, 1746, he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity, from the University of Edinburgh, on the unsolicited recommendation of the late learned Professor Robertson, and in the year 1779, was chosen a fellow of the Royal Society.

The interests of literature, science, and religion, have received, from the exertions of his talents as a writer, the the most essential advantages; but the work by which he will

^a The inscription to his memory may be seen at page fifty-eight.

ever be distinguished, is the "*Biographia Britannica*." This great national publication has given him a high rank among the literati of his country, and will carry down his name with distinguished reputation to posterity. This great and good man died on the fifth day of October, 1795; when he had attained the age of seventy years and six months.

FRANCES BROOKE,

Whose maiden name was Moore, was the daughter of a respectable divine, and the wife of the Rev. John Brooke, rector of Colney in Norfolk, and of St. Augustine in the city of Norwich. This lady was no less admired for the gentleness and sweetness of her manners, than for the various talents she possessed. Her first literary performance was a periodical work, entitled "*The Old Maid*," which has since been formed into one volume. In 1756, she published "*Virginia*," a tragedy, and being dissatisfied with the conduct of Mr. Garrick respecting this piece, she wrote a novel, called the "*Excursion*," which she made the vehicle of her complaints; but fancying she had treated him with too much severity, the mildness of her disposition induced her to retract the work. To the tragedy of *Virginia*, she published several odes, pastorals, translations, &c., but amongst her dramatic productions, "*Rosina*" claims the pre-eminence; the simplicity of the story, and the elegance of the language, have justly rendered it a most admired piece. The domestic happiness which subsisted between Mrs. Brooke and her husband, was of the most tender and lasting kind, and when death put a period to his existence, she survived his loss only a few days. He expired the twenty-first, and this amiable woman the twenty-third of January, 1789, at Sleaford, in the chancel of which church she lies buried, and where a fine mural monument remains to her memory.

ANCASTER.

WE enter upon our sketch of this place, without any view whatever of settling the much agitated point, whether or not it was the celebrated *Crococalana* of Antoninus, the *Segelocum* of the geographer Salmon, the *Causeynne* of Horsley, or simply an *uncaster* or Roman encampment. Such a discussion would lead us into much too wide a field for a work like this, embracing so many towns and villages under so cheap a form; a few extracts from ancient histories will, we conceive, be all that can reasonably be expected.

The laborious antiquary Leland says, "Ankester standith on Wateling as in the highe way to Lincolne; it is now but a very pore strete having a smaule chirch, but in tymes past it hath bene a celebrated toune, but not waulid, as far as I could perceiue: the building of it lay in length by southe and north. In the southe ende of it be often tymes founde in ploughing great square stones of old buildings, and Romaine coynes of brasse and sylver. In the west ende of it, were now medowes be, ar founde yn dicing great vaultes.

"The area wher the castelle stooode is large and the dikes of it appere, and in sum places the foudation of the waulle. In the highest ground of the area is now an old chapel, dedicate to S. Marie, and there is an heremite; this area is right again the east ende of the parochie chirch.

"The tonnelet of Ankester is divided into 2 lordeshipes; the east side of it, at the southe ende whereof the castelle is sette, is of the lordship of Wilesford; the west side of the toune, where

the parochie chirch stondith, was the Vescy's, and the patronage of the chirch, ~~with~~ impropriation, was gyven by one of the Vescys, to the Priory of Malton in Ridesdale.

"The toune of Ankester hath on eche side of it a spring, and they cumming to one botom a none, after ren ynto Willesford streame; and so, as I remember, the broke goith thens to Uerby."^a

He likewise gives us the then computed distances between this place and several other towns, as "From Slesforde to Ankester, a 4 miles by chaumpaine. From Ankester to Temple Bruere al by chaumpaine of Ankester, hath a 4 miles. From Bichefield to Ankester, a poor thorough fare, al by playne and much hethy ground. From Ankester to Lincolne 16 miles, al by like playne ground in Kestene. Here marke that al this heth or playne ground from Bichefield to Lincolne berith the name of Ankester. The Hethe of Ankester conteynith in length about a 14 miles, and in bredth a —, and cummith within a two miles of the fenne."^b

Holinshed remarks of this place, "It seemeth that Ancaster hath been a great thing, for many square and coloured pavements, vaults, and arches are yet found, and often laid open by such as dig and plough the fields about the same."

Dr. Stukeley, a native of this county, and a resident therein for many years, who had great facilities for exploring especially traditional and local testimonies, supposes "Ancaster to have been a very strong city, intrenched and walled about. The bowling green, behind the Red Lion Inn, is made in the ditch; when they were levelling it they came to the old foundations. At the end of the town, where a dove cote stands, is Castle close, full of foundations above ground, the

^a Itinerary, vol. i. p. 30.

^b Ibid.

ditch and rampire encompass it. Here are great quantities of Roman coins found, they are found too upon the hills all about the town, especially southwards, and towards castle pits. After a shower of rain, the school-boys and shepherds find them on the declivities. Coins of Faustina, Verus, Commodus, &c. have been found here.

"There is a spring at each end of the town; and this was, no doubt, the reason why the Romans pitched their situation at this place, for no more water is to be met with from hence to Lincoln.

"There is a road on the west side of the town, which was for the convenience of those that travelled when the gates were shut."^a

The learned Camden also, speaking of this place, says, "Antoninus gives the name of Crococalana to that town which we call Ancaster, which is nothing at present but a long street on the military road, one part of which lately belonged to the Vescys, the other to the Cromwells. On entering it from the south I saw a rampart, and a camp appears to have been higher up, as on the other side to the west appear some summer camps of the Romans. It seems to have had its British name from its situation, lying under a hill. *Cruc maur* signifies in British a great hill, and *Cruc occhidient* a western hill in Giraldus Cambrensis and Ninnius; but the meaning of Colona others must determine. The monuments of antiquity in this town, are the Roman coins and subterraneous passages frequently discovered; its situation on the military way, and the fourteen miles distance between it and Lincoln, on the grassy plain called *Ancaster Heath*; for so many miles Antoninus reckons between Crococalana and Lindum."^b

^a Itinerarium Curiosum, p. 85.

^b Britannia, vol. ii, p. 335.

We shall here close our account, under this head, with one observation, that, viewing this place in its name,—its ancient records,—its abundant production of coins even to this day,—and its singularly convenient and well adapted situation,—we are decidedly of opinion that Ancaster is a place of rare antiquity, and was once a very strong hold of a powerful people, who were excellent judges in selecting a place of defence.

Although we do not meet with Ancaster under that name in the “Dom. Boc. or Domus Dei” record, we conceive it to be included under the two following items relating to the hamlet of Willoughby, which comprehends almost the whole of the western division of what, on a cursory view, appears to be the village of Ancaster. Indeed Ancaster itself is said to be of the most limited extent, consisting of but the church yard and one house, probably the vicarage on the south.

“Land of Robert de Veci. The three hundreds of *Fristun*, *Normenton*, and *Wilgebi*, belong to this manor (Caythorpe). Robert de Veci has there three ploughs in the demesne, and one hundred and thirteen sokemen with thirty-two ploughs, and fifty villanes and seven bordars with thirteen ploughs.

“There are two churches and two priests, and half a mill of ten shillings, and eight hundred and eighty acres of meadow. Three vassals of Robert’s, have twelve carucates and seven oxgangs of the abovementioned land and seke, and they have there four ploughs and a half.

“One Englishman also has one carucate and five oxgangs, and he has there one plough. Value in King Edward’s time thirty pounds, now fifty pounds.”

“Land of Wido de Reinbuedcort. Manor. In *Wilgebi* Leoric had three carucates of land and two oxgangs to be taxed. Land to four ploughs. Wido de Reinbuedcort has there two ploughs in the demesne, and ten sokemen with ten oxgangs of this land, and three bordars having two ploughs

and a half. There are ——— priests having thirty-seven acres and a half of land; they pay a customary rent of eight pence. Wido. has soké over a fourth part of the same village, and thirty acres of meadow, and twenty-eight acres of coppice-wood. Value in King Edward's time seven pounds, now four. Tallaged at twenty shillings."

Little interesting information is gained from these extracts; except, perhaps, we may conclude that Willoughby had, at that time, its church and priest as well as Ancaster.

The following quotations from Testa de Nevill, will tend to shew the connection subsisting, even so long since as the time of Henry III., between Ancaster and its hamlet of Sudbrook, as well as between the adjoining villages of Wilsford and Ancaster; and will also connect the Domesday account of de Veci, with the de Vesey of de Nevill.

"Caythorpe, Frieston, Normanton, Sudbrook, and half Ancaster, are of the fee of William de Vesey."^a

"The Prior of Haverholm held in Ancaster and Wilsford, the fourth part of a knight's fee of Count Rico, of the honour of Haya, of the new feoffment.

"Also the Monks of Beckherlewyn held there the whole residue, of the Lord de Brume, in pure eleemosynary, of the old feoffment.

"Roger de Burle held in Sudbrook half a knight's fee of the aforesaid William."^b

It is believed that this William de Vesey was the person whom Dr. Stukeley mentions, as giving the church of Ancaster to the Nuns of Malton; the churches of Caythorpe and Normanton to the Knights Templars; and the Hermitage at Spaldingholme, to the Canons of Sempringham and Nuns of Ormsby.^c

^a Testa de Nevill, p. 308. ^b Ibid, pp. 323 & 324. ^c Itin. Cur. p. 85.

The lately extinct Dukedom of Ancaster had its title from this village in the year 1715.

On the derivation of Ancaster, Gough, in his *Additions to Camden*, says, that Mr. Gale supposed *Onne* an ash tree, and Dr. Stukeley *Onna* a boggy valley, to have been the first cause from whence its name originated; but of course both these respectable antiquaries could have meant only the first syllable of the word, and considered the *caster* to have been added from after existing circumstances.

The situation of Ancaster, or rather what appears to be Ancaster, for its eastern wing belongs to Wilsford, and its western to the hamlets of Sudbrook and Willoughby, is singularly interesting, as having the Hermen Street, or, as it is now called, the High Dike Road,^a passing directly through it in a continuous straight course. "The Hermen Street goes along the heath, which preserves it from being worn away. I have seen bases of milliaries on its sides. Dr. Stukeley says, on this road are many stones placed, but most seem modern and like stumps of crosses, yet probably are mile stones. It would be of little use to measure the intervals, for one would find that the whole distance between two towns, was equally divided by such a number of paces as came nearest the total. In the valley from Honington to Carlton, is a large flat tumulus. There are many in this county, and the lower rich part of it has scarce a village without them: two at Normanton, others at Leadenham in Harlaxton lane, at Denton; one between Threckingham and Brig-end, and one on the heath, amongst the goss, overlooking Saltersford. These are probably British."^b

a Dike is an ancient term for a mound or bank, as well as a channel for water.

b Gough's *Additions to Camden*, vol. ii, p. 359.

We shall now proceed to give a brief description of the parish church, which was dedicated to St. Martin. We have before stated that one William Vescey gave this church to the Priory of Malton, which grant must have been of much antiquity, as it appears from the Harleian MSS. that, even so early as the year 1262, (forty-sixth of Henry III.) the "Prior de Malton p'sent ad Eccl'am de Ancaster." How long the presentation continued in that religious house we are unable to determine, but most probably, as in almost every similar case, till the dissolution of that order. In 1535 Richard Carter was vicar, but by whom presented is not said, and the date leaves us no reason to conclude it might not have been by the Nuns of Malton. From this man's days we are compelled to descend with a rapid stride, to about the year 1743, when the Rev. Wyat Tracts was vicar, and from him, to the present incumbent, the Rev. John Jowett, who is at this time patron of the vicarage also. We cannot but lament the extreme difficulty, not to say impossibility, of giving any thing the least resembling a satisfactory account of any place, where our repeated applications for local information amongst its inhabitants, but more particularly from church and other parish registers, have received no attention.

The church, as a building, is deserving of much regard, bearing vestiges of very remote antiquity in some of its pillars and arches, but more especially its font. It is built of a fine and most excellent stone, which is met with in this parish, and is said to be after the Anglo Norman cast of architecture. A slender spire, with a nave having windows above, two aisles in their usual situations of south and north, and a chancel, form the whole of the building. It seems that a chantry chapel once stood on the north side of the chancel, and no doubt communicated with it. The nave is supported by five pillars, two towards the south, fluted or clustered, having

pointed or gothic arches, and three towards the north, round, and exceedingly massy, with four circular or Saxon arches of different devices: one at the east end being indented or having zig-zag bordering, while that at the west end is perfectly plain and square; and of the two remaining, one has a beaded, and the other a chequered moulding. We were particularly struck both with the beauty and antiquity of these last described columns and arches. While the exterior of the church, as is almost universally the case, has its southern front the most ornamented, yet that its interior should be the most enriched towards the north, may seem to some not a little singular. But may it not, in some measure, be accounted for, by reflecting that the principal entrance being from the south, the beauty of the arches and their varied ornaments, would appear to the greatest advantage, as well as have the benefit of a stronger light. The same disposition of pillars, and arches of similar beautiful and coeval architecture, is to be met with in the small village church of Bicker in this county.

The font is singularly elegant, with its interesting arches of the true Norman style: it even attracted the attention of Mr. Gough, and has found a place in his splendid and costly production of Sepulchral Monuments.

Nothing more, of any particular interest, remains to be noticed within the body of this church, which, like the generality of parish churches, abounds with numerous monuments, all of which are of too recent a date, to claim a particular description. The principal families commemorated are, the Longs, Blaggs, Browns, Tracts, Towns, the family of Lieutenant General Calcraft, and others of yet more modern times. There are indeed several very old slabs along the aisles of the church, which, although evidently bearing marks of inscriptions, are too much defaced and obliterated to be deciphered with any thing like correctness; but the industrious

Hollis has rescued one of them from oblivion, for he tells us of a "Lapis super humum," inscribed, "Hic jacet Joh'es Simon de Wylagby,"^a but no date is given: we infer, however, that it could not be later than the year 1430, as some of his descendants were buried in Wilsford church as early as 1460. Only one specimen of stained glass was observed here by Hollis, and that we should suppose was the effigy of Sir John Goldan, *chevalier*. "In fenestra boreali. Effegies bellatoris gestantis super seiper scutem et hastem, vert. Argent, a bend, G. a border chequy, Or. & B."^b

The tower contains four bells, cast more than two centuries ago, three of which are inscribed with old English text, and from the singularity of the couplets may, perhaps, be thought worthy of insertion. The first, or smallest bell, has no inscription, but the date "1607."—The second, from its inscription, we judge was the bell usually rung on the mornings of Sundays and Saints' days, to give notice of the approaching public worship of God. *My roaringe sounde doth warning geve, that men cannot heare always lye, 1602.*—The third was decidedly the passing bell. *All men that heare my mornfull sound, repent before you lye in ground, 1602.*—And the fourth, we conclude, was that which was rung immediately before divine service commenced, or, as it is vulgarly termed, the sermon bell. *I will sounde and resounde unto thy people, o lord, with my sweet voice, to call them to thy word, 1602.*

The exterior architecture of this church is exceedingly handsome, having the steeple ornamented with a vast variety of heads and figures, and the nave embattled, adorned and enriched with blank shields and quatrefoils, and surmounted with pinnacles. The porch on the south, rebuilt A. D. 1717,

^a Harleian MSS., No. 6829, p. 324.

^b Ibid.

is quite plain. Gough, in his *Sepulchral Monuments*, says "In the church yard on the south, are two stone figures of priests; one on a tomb about a foot high, his hands joined, and a lion at his feet; the other on the ground, his hands joined and holding the cup and wafers; no appearance of inscription. They are probably two incumbents of this church." Again, he writes, "On this church yard wall is an inscription of Sir John Goidan, chivaler."

Ancaster, which is situated about six miles west of Sleaford, on the road leading thence to Grantham, is, with its hamlets of Willoughby and Sudbrook, in the hundred of Lovedon, and together comprise a large tract of land, (nearly three thousand acres,) which is divided among a few proprietors; of whom Sir J. H. Thorold, baronet, Mrs. Pennell, J. C. L. Calcraft, and C. Allix, esquires, are the chief. The two family houses at Willoughby and Sudbrook are delightful situated, and appear from the road, on entering Ancaster, to be completely sheltered with wood.

The population of Ancaster and its hamlets was, in the year 1821, four hundred and thirty-nine persons.

How different is the present appearance of this parish, and its adjoining fields and neighbouring villages, from what it must have been in Leland's time, about three hundred years since, when Ancaster was almost encircled for miles, with nothing but a "chaumpaine heth," extending to Sleaford, nay even to Lincoln, and within two miles of the fens. This heath is now diversified with plantations and hedge-row timber, being no longer campaign, plain, and open, in the literal sense of the term, and its bare and barren heaths have yielded to the labour and industry of man, and give their annual tribute of the rich and golden grain.

ANWICK.

THIS small village, which is in the hundred of Flaxwell, lies nearly five miles north-east of Sleaford, and has the advantage of an excellent turnpike road leading towards the Wolds of Lincolnshire, through the market towns of Tattershall, Horncastle, and Louth. Previous to the formation of this road, so late as the year 1793, the communication even with Sleaford, during the winter season was by no means easy and practicable; and with regard to the country east of Anwick, all intercourse nearly ceased with the autumnal rains.

Before entering, however, on the account of Anwick as it now is, we shall bring before our readers some extracts from Domesday and other records, which will be found to afford but a faint shadow indeed of what Anwick was, or, perhaps, more properly speaking, of the ancient proprietors of its soil. The account of this place in Domesday is unusually barren: the names of three persons, however, who had possession here at the time that account was given in, are recorded, one of whom, judging from the name, must have followed the Conqueror from a foreign land.

"Land of Drogo de Beurere. In *Haniuic* he has five oxgangs of land and a half to be taxed. It is worth twenty-five shillings."

"Land of Geoffry Alselin. In *Amuiuc* six carucates of land to be taxed. Land to as many ploughs. Berewick in Ruskington. Ralph, grandson of Geoffry, has there twenty-one sokemen and four villanes having seven ploughs. Drogo,

his vassal, holds five oxgangs and a half of the same land, and has there six oxen in a plough, and one villane and three bordars with one ox. It is worth twenty-five shillings."

We next quote the authority of *Testa de Nevill*, which, from its early date, and the apparently respectable sources from whence the information contained therein was derived, merits much attention. It may be interesting to some to have the names of the twelve jurors, appointed for the wapentake of Flaxwell, either at the latter part of the reign of Henry III., or the beginning of Edward I. Walter of Amwyc, Galfry of Rauceby, Richard Chaplain, Michael of Amwyc, William of Amwyc, who lived at Riskington, William Lincoln of Riskington, Richard the son of John of the same place, Roger Bray of Esseby (Ashby), Gilbert Leytherwick of the same, Robert Laverton of Brauncewell, Henry son of Simon of the same, and Robert Denton of the Temple.

"The Prior of Haverholm held in Amewyc three carucates of land, four bovates and a half less, in pure and perpetual eleemosynary, of Matilda de Cauz, and she of the King, in capite, of the old feoffment.

"Also Walter de Amewyc held, in the same place, one knight's fee of John de Everingham, and he of Robert de Everingham, and the same Robert of the King, in capite, of the old feoffment."^a

This, with the exception of the following extract, is all that can be satisfactorily ascertained of this parish in earlier times.

"Walter de Leicester, the son of Roger the son of Fulcon de Amwyke, in the King's court at Westminster, recovered seizin, against Walter Freeman, of one acre of land, with the appurtenances, in Amwyk."^b

^a *Testa de Nevill*, p. 318.

^b *Originalia Exchequer*, 22nd Edward I.

The little varieties which are seen in the manner of writing the name of this village, leave us unincumbered with difficulty in determining the derivation of *Anwick*, or as in Domesday, *Haniuic*. If the latter be the received mode of spelling, it will then be from the Saxon *Hæm* a dwelling, and *uic* or *vic* a village, i. e. a very small village, scarcely exceeding a little hamlet:—but, if the modern orthography be the more correct, we readily decide it to have arisen likewise from the Saxon *Anna*, signifying water, and *wick* a village, i. e. a village having a river or pools of water, or large swamps and tracts of land generally covered with water, in its immediate vicinity.

The parish church, which is dedicated to St. Editha, being a Vicarage, and now united to the Rectories of Brauncewell and Dunsby, is rather a spacious edifice, with a spire built of an excellent durable stone. The spire especially is highly ornamented, having three tiers or stories, each containing four windows or openings to the cardinal points, which are enriched with beautiful work, forming a variety of curious and not inelegant devices. The shaft or pin on which the vane turned is gone, and the remaining half of the table stone, on the top of the spire, appears to be in a very dangerous inclining position, ready to yield to the first winter's blast: there are no memoranda of the circumstance, but it appears highly probable that the top of this spire has been struck with lightning at some remote period. A sun-dial on the south buttress of the tower, is at this time useless, the figures being obliterated. It appears from niches in the tower, in which the flash lead is usually inserted, that the walls and roof of the nave have been considerably higher than they now are; when, most probably, there were windows also above the side aisles. A fair-sized porch leads to the principal entrance on the south; opposite to which is the north door-way, at this time barbarously walled up. This door-way is exceedingly hand-

some, being enriched with a double row of very ornamental fret-work, corresponding with that which is seen within the church, over the arches which separate the nave from the north aisle. Viewing this church on the exterior, and on the whole, we feel much disposed to hazard an opinion, that the architecture is on too large a scale, and more particularly as regards the tower and spire, and too ornamented for so comparatively small a building.

The interior of the church is simple, plain, and neat, having a north and south aisles, and a nave supported by six slender pillars, terminating in pointed arches; those on the north, as has been observed before, are surmounted with a handsome fret-work border, which descends to the pavement along the pillars, at the east and west extremities. The pulpit, which is modern, is placed in the centre of the nave, against a pillar on the north. There is a frame for an hour-glass still fixed in the pillar at the north-east end of the nave, where probably the old pulpit stood. And here an observation offers itself on the almost universal situation of pulpits and reading desks, in our parish churches, being against pillars and walls, which not only obstruct the free dispersion of light, but must tend, very materially, to deaden the sound of the voice, and also to prevent its spreading itself to the best advantage for the audience. Indeed nothing can be more injudicious than the situation of a great many pulpits, viewed in another light, as not facing the major part of the congregation. Some steps of a stairs, leading up to what was the rood-loft, of which nothing now remains, and thence to the leads, are seen at the eastern extremity of the nave towards the south. A piscini under an arch, at the south-east end of the south aisle, is in good preservation. The font, of a plain octagonal form, which would be very ornamental if placed, as is usual, at the west end of the nave, has, without doubt, been removed to its present situation, against

a pillar almost in the centre of the north aisle. Some small remnants of stained glass, of no peculiar interest, are thinly scattered throughout the windows.

The chancel, which is divided from the body of the church, merely by the royal arms, (God save the Queen of Great Britain, 1708,) and the table of the Decalogue, is very low and small, but kept exquisitely neat. A large sepulchral slab, dated 1615, with an inscription along its border, of which the following is all that could be clearly deciphered,—*Jacet corpus Thomæ Whichcote de ——— Joh. Whichcote de Dunston, Arm: ———*, and four mural tablets, of modern date, are in the chancel.

In the church-yard, which is kept commendably neat, at a few feet from, and nearly in front of, the porch, is a slender fluted column, about four feet high, of rather chaste workmanship, which is presumed to be part of the shaft or pillar formerly supporting a cross.

The presentation to this Vicarage, together with its united Rectories, is alternately with the Earl of Bristol and the family of Hazlewood, who also own the manor between them. We have been unable to obtain any thing the least resembling a connected chain of incumbents, and have to record only one of earlier times; viz. Richard Symson, who was vicar in 1535. We then descend to the modern date of 1708, and find William Everingham, to whom succeeded, we suppose, Robert Gardiner, who was followed by John Andrews, and he again was succeeded by George Matthew, who resigned the incumbency for the vicarage of Greenwich, in Middlesex, and to him succeeded the present incumbent the Rev. R. D. R. Spooner. The next presentation is with the Earl of Bristol. The vicarage house, which was built by the Earl of Bristol about twenty years since, is a simple unadorned edifice, with its white-washed walls, its humble porch, and its coat of reed, giving

that kind of *tout ensemble*, so inviting and so desirable in the dwelling of the village pastor.

Anwick, standing at the edge of a very large tract of low land, not many years ago a complete bog, but now a well-drained and cultivated fen, affords nothing particularly agreeable to the eye of the traveller; yet the village itself is rather pretty, and contains an interesting old house on the north-east corner of, and standing as it were in, the church yard, as well as a blacksmith's shop, with two circular ends, one the dwelling-house and the other the shop, an open shed resting on pillars, being between, and the whole slated and white-washed, and a circular cottage, built with much taste. The two last mentioned are of modern date, and the property of the Earl of Bristol.

This parish, which was enclosed in the year 1791, and at the same time exonerated from tithes, contains about two thousand and fifty acres, of which something more than one-half is fen land. Sometime about A. D. 1566, J. Thompson, esquire, resided in this parish, to whose widow, as is seen by the following extract, descended two parts of the manor of Anwick. "*De Anna Thompson, vidua nuper uxore Johannis T. occasionati ad ostendendum quo titulo tenet duas partes Manerii de Amwike, in com. Linc.*"^a

The population here, judging from the account given in the time of Queen Elizabeth, has considerably increased, which may be easily accounted for by the enclosure and drainage of a tract of uninhabitable land, exceeding the ancient size of the parish. In Elizabeth's days, A. D. 1556, there were thirty-two families, (not houses were meant,) and now there are fifty houses containing a population of two hundred and forty-six persons.

^a Originalia Exchequer, 9th Elizabeth.

ASHBY-DE-LA-LAUND.

THE village of Ashby, now distinguished from many others of the same name, in this county, by the addition of *de-la-Laund*, is situate in the hundred of Flaxwell, about seven miles north of Sleaford, on the right of the turnpike road leading thence to Lincoln, from which its graceful spire, and plantations surrounding the ancient mansion of the family of King, are pleasing objects to the traveller thereon.

Ashby, in common with almost every place of which we have read, has been described at different periods under a different name; for we meet with *Aschebi* and *Achesbi* in Domesday Book, and in Testa de Nevill, the varieties of *Ashby*, *Askeby*, and *Esseby*.

Among the number of places described in Domesday, under the general name of Ashby, some difficulty is experienced in quoting elucidatory passages from that record, which especially refer to the parish now under description: the two following, however, are supposed to relate thereto.

“Land of Colsuain. Manor. In *Aschebi* Outi and Aschil had three carucates of land and a half to be taxed. Land to four ploughs. Colsuain has there one plough and a half, and twelve villanes, and two sokemen with one oxgang of this land, and one bordar with two ploughs, and fifteen acres of meadow. Value in King Edward’s time fifty shillings, now seventy shillings.”

“Land of William Talbois. Manor. In *Achesbi* Turuert had three oxgangs of land to be taxed. Land to five oxen,

William Talbois has there two oxen in a plough, and forty acres of meadow. Value in King Edward's time ten shillings, now five."

Perhaps this Ashby obtained its first name from the former part of the surname of that *Aschil*, mentioned as being a proprietor of land here so early as the Conqueror's days, with the usual termination of *by* or *bye*, a village.

From Testa de Nevill we gather, that, in the time of Henry III., "Jordan de Esseby held in Askeby one knight's fee of the Count of Salisbury, of the old feoffment, and the same Count of the King, and the King of the honour of Haya.

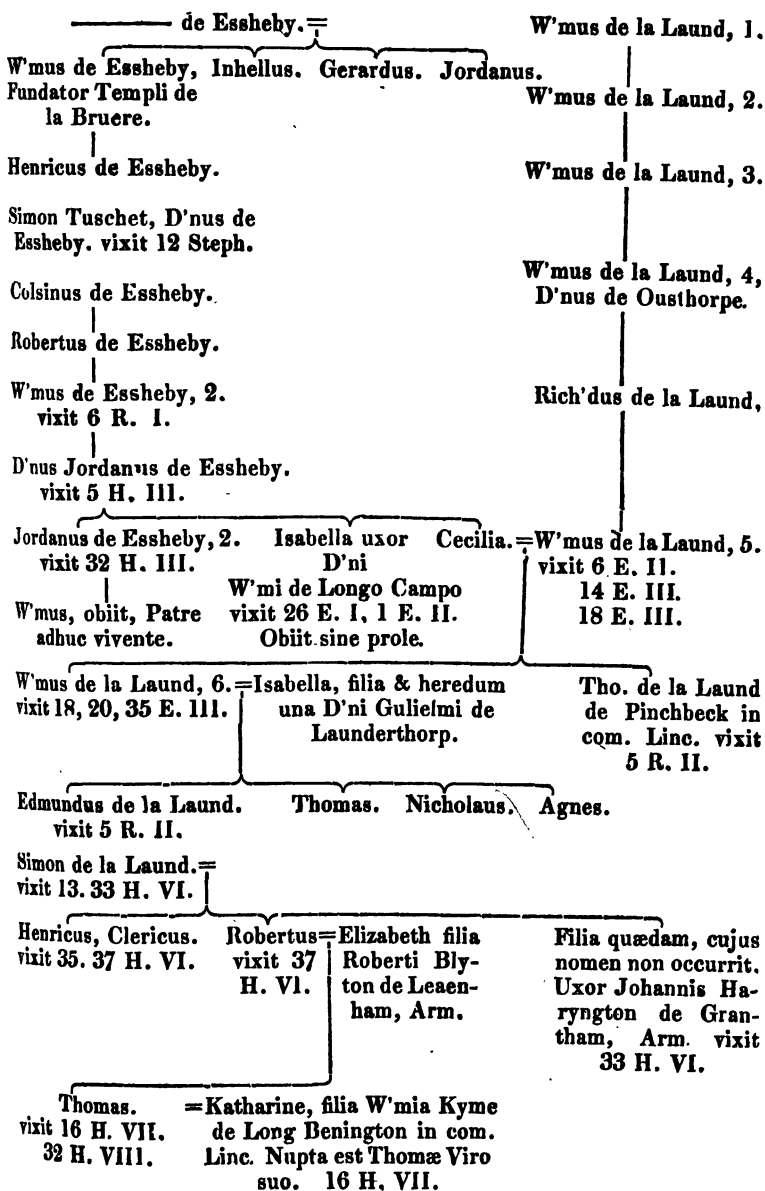
"Also the Knight's Templars held in the same place one knight's fee, in pure and perpetual eleemosynary, of Simon Tuschet, but it was not known of whom the said Simon held."

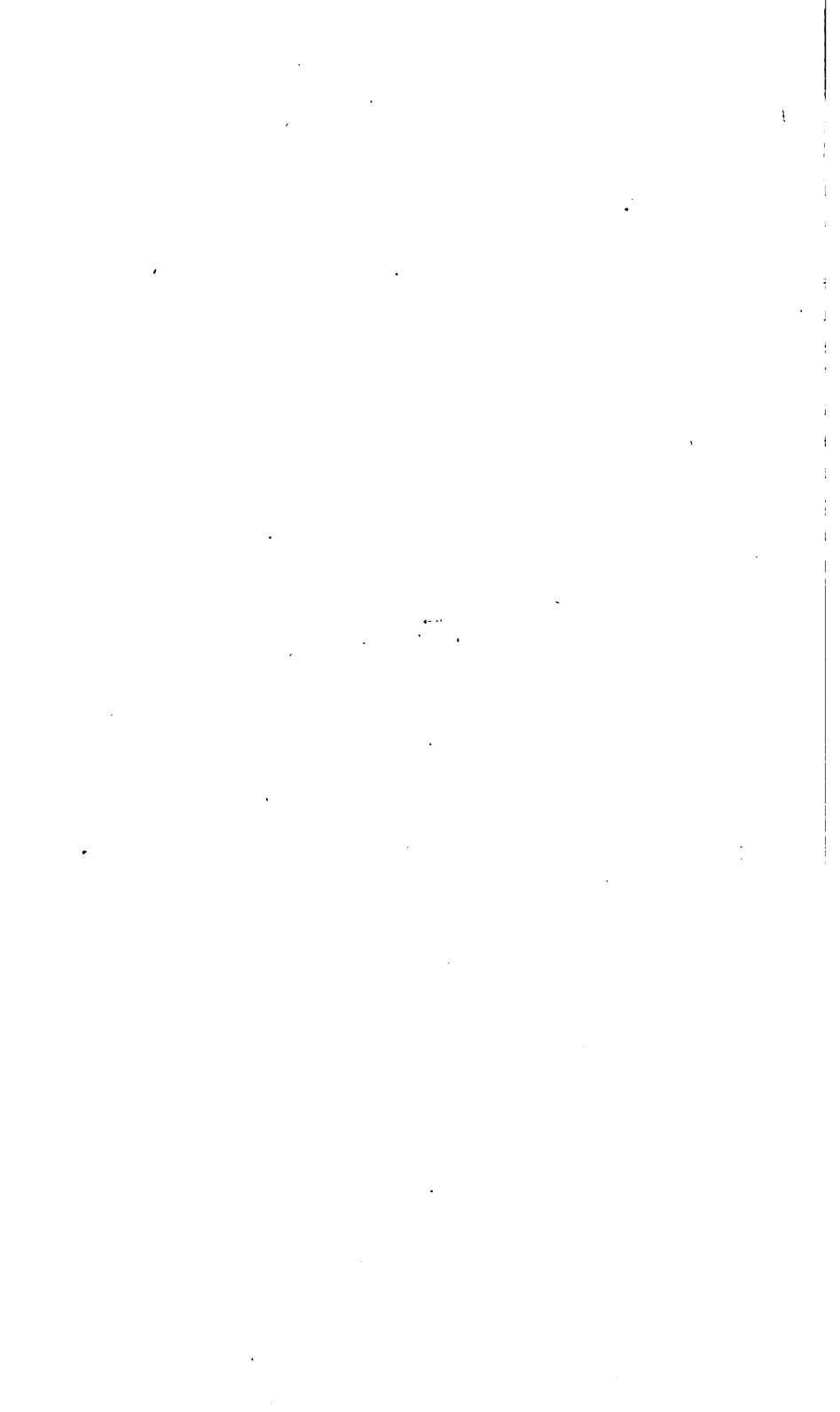
Hitherto, we have considered the name of this place as Ashby alone, without its adjunct of *de-la-Laund*; and it appears to us that this addition was made to the name of this village so long since as about the year 1260, on the death of Lord Jordan de Essheby, (whose name occurs in the extract we have taken from Testa de Nevill), when Cecilia, the daughter and sole surviving representative, married the fifth William de la Laund, who was living in the sixth year of Edward II. (A. D. 1313.) In the annexed pedigree of the former Lords of Ashby, we find the first noticed, viz. William de Essheby to have been the founder of Temple Brewer, and that the male line became extinct in the second Jordan de Essheby, whose daughter, Cecilia, most probably succeeded to the estates and possessions of the family in this place; and on her assuming the name of her husband De la Laund, the village, which was by no means an uncommon thing in earlier

a Testa de Nevill, p. 319.

PEDIGREE of the LORDS of ASHBY,

Extracted from Mr. Peck's MSS., in the British Museum.





times, would, by degrees, be called after the name of its chief proprietor.

The family of De la Laund, as well as that of De Essheby, were of some distinction in their day, for one Thomas de la Laund, or Dalaland, as Fuller in his Worthies calls him, was sheriff of this county, in the fourteenth of Henry VII.

We have before said that Temple Brewer, which bounds Ashby on the west, was founded by one William de Essheby, and accordingly we find, among the MSS. in the British Museum, several papers relating to various matters and agreements between the Preceptors and Knights of that habitation, and his descendants. From one we gather, that the second William de Essheby covenanted, in the year 1195, (sixth of Richard I.) with the Knights' Templars, to give up to them the advowson of the church of Ashby, for which they were to grant him a chaplain to perform divine service twice every week for ever, in the chapel of St. Margaret, in the hall or manor-house of the said William de Essheby.^a

From another document it appears, that Jordan, the son of Jordan de Essheby, who was alive in the thirty-second of Henry III., (1248,) entered into an agreement with Robert Samford, Master of the Knights' Templars, for pasturage in

^a "1.—Hec est finalis Concordia in Curia D. Regis, die Jovis proximo post Octavas S. Johannis Baptiste, Anno Regni R. Ricardi sexto, coram Domino Henrico Archidiacono Cantuariæ, &c., inter Fratres Militie Templi Petentes & Willielmum de Essheby Tenentem, de Advocacione Ecclesiæ de Essheby, nude Placitum fuit inter eos; Sciñcet, quod

"2.—Predictus Willielmus quietum clamavit imperpetuu' de se & Heredibus suis, predictis Fratribus & eorum Successoribus, tot'u Jus & clamen' suum quod habuerit in Advocacione ejusdem Ecclesiæ.

"3.—Pro hac autem concessione, predicti Fratres concesserunt, predicto Willielmo & Heredibus suis, Capellanu' qui imperpetuum, qualibet Septimana, bis celebrabit in Capella S. Margarete, que est in curia predicti Willielmi."

Peck's MSS., British Museum, Vol. iv. No. 4937.

Ashby field for forty sheep, eight beasts, and one hundred pigs, at limited times in the year.^a

The advowson of Ashby church, which, as has been before related, was granted to the fraternity of Temple Brewer, was, after a lapse of more than a century, again in the hands of the De Essheby family, for we find the second Jordan de Essheby, who lived in the thirty-second of Henry III., (A. D. 1248,) covenanted with his son William, not to alienate, during his life, the church of Ashby from himself and heirs.^b After this agreement William de Essheby died before his father Jordan, and then Jordan, it appears (if he could properly be said to grant that which was before given them by his ancestor William de Essheby the second,) granted the church of Ashby to the Templars. And thus matters rested till the time of Henry VI., when Robert de la Laund (by virtue of this agreement between Jordan de Essheby and his son William), attempted to recover the church of Ashby from the Knights' Hospitalers of St. John of Jerusalem, who succeeded the

^a Peck's MSS., Vol. iv. No. 4937.

^b "Notum sit omnibus tam presentibus & futuris, quod ego Jordanus de Essheby, dedi, concessi, & presenti Carta confirmavi Willielmo, Filio & Heredi meo, & Heredibus suis, (*inter alia*) totum Jus quod habui in Ecclesia de Aesseby, sine ullo Retenemento. Habendum & pacifice tenendum tota Vita mea, ad sustentatione' sui & Heredu' suorum; ita libere & quiete sicut unqua' ea liberius & quocius tenui, faciendo inde Servicia que facere solebam Dominis meis de quibus predictas Terras tenui. Et illo autem Tempore quo prenomintas Terras dedi & concessi eidem Willielmo & Heredibus suis, fide interposita, plenam in comitatu' Linc. ei feci securitatem, quod nichil in Vita mea de Terra de Aesseby, de quibus prefatus Willielmus Heres meus est, alieno venderem vel darem vel invadiarem, nisi per Assensum ipsius Voluntatis. Neq' Donacione' Ecclesie de Aesseby, ab eo vel Heredibus suis, elongarem, vel alienare'. Et pro hac Concessionem & Securitate idem Willielmus, Filius & Heres meus, dedit michi in predicto Comitatu xv. Marchas Argenti, ad debita acquietanda. Hiis Testibus, &c." *IBID.*

Knights' Templars; in discoursing of which affair, and the issue thereof, his son Thomas has these words:—"I suppose rekoverie therof myght be hadde by meanes of the law; and Robert de la Laund, my father, sued Master Skayfe, late Knight of Temple in his days, and had hym at fer processe, and shuld have had rekoverie therof of hym, if he had lyved, but then he decessed, and so the sute was lost."^a

Here, then, we shall close our account of the former Lords of Ashby, and the feuds subsisting between them and the once powerful possessors of the Temple on the Heath, and proceed to a description of the church and village.

The church, which is a discharged vicarage, is now under the patronage of Neville King, esquire. Its tutelary saint is St. Hybald. A slender, chaste, and rather lofty spire, with one aisle, or nave, and a small chancel, form the whole of the present place of worship; but from the appearance of two arches, with corresponding pillars, in the north wall, it is clear that there was formerly an addition of at least one aisle on the north. Within, it is fitted up without any regard to taste, unornamented deal pews and a deal pulpit supplying, no doubt, the place of richly chased native oak, bearing on its surface the sombre tints of ages long gone by. Here again we meet with the prevailing octagonal formed font, which is lined with lead, and has various devices on its separate shields. There are two bells in the tower. In the north wall are three shields, on which are engraven the armorial bearings of the ancestors of that gentleman in whom the patronage of the vicarage is now vested.

There were, in Hollis's time, a few remains of stained glass, particularly in the eastern window of the chancel, recording

^a Peck's MSS., Vol. iv. No. 4937.

the arms of De la Laund. Now if we take this to relate to the last branch of this family it must have been placed there at least three centuries since; but if it refers, which is very probable, to the first of that family, after whom we suppose the village to have been named, then it would be of more than five centuries standing.

Fen. orient' cancelli.

B. 3 darts, or.

S. a bend ermya.—*Ry.*

Arg. a fesse daunce betw. billets G.—*De la Laund.*^a

The other specimens of stained glass, though Hollis does not state it, were most probably in a window of the church. He however tells us that it had been but lately restored, or renewed, by Edward King.

Denuo instaurata p' Edward King, 1605.

Empaled. { Sa. on a chevron engrayled, arg. 3 scallops
of the first.—*King.*
Sa. a bend arg. betw. 2 cottises daunce, or. a
mullet difference.—*Clopton, uxor. prima.*
King paleth arg. 2 barres nebuly, sa. on a canton G. a bend
or.—*Keble, uxor secunda.*^b

From the same source we learn that there were also two ancient tombs of Simon and Isabel de la Laund. There still remains a slab in the church floor, on the north side, with the

^a Hart. MSS. No. 6830, p. 234.

^b Ibid.

figure of a female in the attitude of supplication, with an inscription, quite illegible, and an armorial bearing. This we conceive to be one of those mentioned by Hollis, and it is not improbable that the other is covered with the wall built in the arches, which formerly parted the north aisle from the nave.

In the chancel is now a monument, consisting of three figures, viz. two females, in the costume of Elizabeth's days, cut in stone, and a man in armour, in alabaster, with the following inscription on a brass plate, the bottom of which has been broken off.

Here lyeth Edwarde Kinge, Esquier, who died the xxiii. of Iuly, 1617.

He married two wives, the first beinge Mary Clapton, one of the daughters of Richard Clapton of Ford Hall, in the countie of Suffolke, Esq. by whom he had issue two sonnes and fovre daughters; the second wife was Elizabeth Colly, late wife of Anthony Colly, of Glaston, in the countie of Rvrland, Esq. and one of the daughters and coheires to Henry Keeble, son to S—— Keeble, by whom he had issue one —

Opposite to the above is another stone monument, with the figures of three females in a kneeling position, and an infant reposing in a cradle, but without any inscription.

Besides the above, there are several of the last century to the memory of various branches of the King family, and some others of modern date. We have not been able to obtain any thing like a connected chain of Incumbents of this church, but find that Willielmus Varley was vicar in the year 1535. The Rev. John King is the present vicar.

A singular feature in this church is, that the porch is on the north side, which is certainly a very unusual position for that addition and ornament to our parish churches. And indeed we do not recollect an instance of a similar situation of the porch, where only one exists, for it is not very uncommon in large churches to see two porches, one of which is

invariably towards the south. Whether this porch was always on the north, on which side the whole of the village is now situated, or removed from the south side, at the time the church was reduced, we are unable to determine.

We have but little to add under the head of the modern state of this place. The village is now at some distance from the parish church, but we have not been able to ascertain whether such was always its relative situation, or whether time, that great changer of events, has not leveled with the ground those dwellings, which formed what is usually termed a village, encircling its parish church.

The seat of the King family is pleasantly situated in the centre of the village, and appears, from a date thereon, to have been built in the year 1595, by Edward King, esquire, whose arms,—*Sa. on a chevron engrailed, arg. 3 scallops of the first.*—and motto,—*Virtuti Fortuna Cedit.*—are also sculptured thereon. This mansion has not been the residence of the family of King for a number of years, and is now occupied by William Gardiner, esquire.

The parish was exonerated from tithes at the enclosure, and the soil is esteemed excellent for wheat and barley. The principal proprietor is Neville King, esquire, who is also lord of the manor. Ashby, at this time, contains twenty-five houses, with a population of one hundred and fifty-five persons.



ASWARBY.

THIS village, which is situated on the turnpike road leading from Sleaford to Folkingham, at about an equal distance from each, and in the hundred of Aswardhurn, bears nearly the same name that it had in William the Conqueror's time, the letters *de* then intervening between *r* and *b*, and its termination *i* instead of *y*, viz. *Aswardebi*.

Although the account of this place given us in Domesday is but limited, yet it is more than usually interesting, for we are not only told of a church and a priest here, but have likewise the priest's name, one Ralph, who was, most probably, distinguished in his time as the Ralph de Aswardebi. This person appears by the following extracts from the above record, to have held nearly a third part of the village.

“Land of Gilbert de Gand. Soke. In *Aswardebi* four carucates of land and a half, and one oxgang to be taxed. Land to nine ploughs. Forty-one sokemen and three bordars

have there eighteen ploughs. There is a church and a priest, and two parts of the advowson of one church, and one hundred and eighty acres of meadow. Ralph, the priest, has there three carucates and a half of this land, and has there four ploughs in the demesne."

"Land of Wido de Credon. Soke. In *Aswardebi* four oxgangs of land to be taxed. Land to one plough. Soke in Marram, one sokeman and one border have there half a plough and twenty acres of meadow."

Testa de Nevill merely mentions that "Simon de Kyme held in Aswordeby one knight's fee of Gilbert de Gaunt, and he of the King, of the old feoffment."^a

To these two ancient records, we can add but little to interest an antiquary, relative to this place; indeed, the difficulty of supplying food to satisfy the taste of an ardent inquirer into matters obscured, and almost lost by intervening centuries, is exceedingly great in all cases, and insurmountable in many. We find, however, that one Adam de Aswardby was made Abbot of Bardney in the year 1225, who, after enjoying that post of confidence and honour for about twelve years, resigned it. Likewise it appears that, in the forty-eighth of Henry III. (A. D. 1264,) the Prior de Kyme "p'sent ad Ecclesium de Aswardeby," but we are not told the name of the Rector on this presentation.

In a work published about a century ago it is said, that "Azerby is remarkable only for being the seat of the Right Honourable the Lord Hervey, near which is an old Temple, but in ruins."^b There is no doubt but that Aswarby Hall, now the seat of Sir Thomas Whichcote, baronet, was at that time the residence of a Hervey, of which family it was purchased

^a Testa de Nevill, p. 321.

^b Magna Britannia, Vol. ii. p. 1413.

by an ancestor of the said Sir Thomas; but we have not been able to meet with any other account, either historical or traditional, of a temple being near the said mansion, nor is there, as far as we know, the smallest remains or the slightest reason to suppose that such did ever exist in this place. We therefore conclude it to be an error, originating from the circumstance of confounding *Aswarby* with *Aslackby* near Folkingham, at which place there still remains a Temple formerly belonging to the Knights' Hospitalers.

A medicinal spring is noticed by Camden in this village, which, in its day was celebrated for its peculiar properties; but which has, time out of mind, ceased to be either visited, or even known, with certainty, as to the place of its existence. It is supposed, however, to have issued from nearly the summit of the hill on the south of the village, by the side of the turnpike road, and nearly at the division fence between Aswarby and Osbournby field; and a square stone cistern or trough, now filled up with leaves and earth, still remains in the ditch, into which the spring, very probably, was formerly directed.

In our account of the church at Aswarby and its windows of various tints, together with the tombs and monuments formerly enclosed within its walls, we shall be able to lead back the minds of our readers to the distant days of those once celebrated and powerful families, the Kymes, Umfravills, Lucies, and Tailboys, and point out where rested the mortal remains of him who was the Incumbent here near four hundred years ago, as well as some others also, upon whom the world, with all its vanities and toils, closed ere the fifteenth century was finished.

The exterior architecture of the church is principally of Perpendicular character, with some earlier portions, and the materials very durable, and still but little impaired by the

vicissitudes of the many revolving years which have passed away since its first erection. A fine tower and spire at the west end, with a lofty nave, a north aisle, and a chancel towards the east, comprise the whole of the present edifice. Within the tower are three bells. Below the roof of the nave, which is of excellent well-seasoned oak, are twelve handsome windows, six on each side, which are supported upon six clustered pillars terminating in pointed arches. In the north aisle is a large gallery, forming the exclusive family pew of the Whichcotes. There is likewise at the west end of the same aisle, an elevated and spacious cemetery set apart to receive the mortal remains of the same family. The pulpit, which is of oak, is ornamented with the armorial bearings of the patron of the living; and the sittings in the church are all likewise of oak, having some enclosed pews, and the remainder being made up of those ancient stalls or benches, which every antiquary is always found to admire, and of which he never ceases to lament the loss in so many of our new modeled ecclesiastical edifices. The font is very ancient and singular in its form, being circular, and supported on four circular pillars entwined with leaves and tendrils. The chancel is separated from the nave by a beautiful fret-work screen.

From Hollis's Notes^a we gather the following account of the painted windows, which once threw their rich and varied lights over the seats of the living as well as the monuments of the dead, but of which not a vestige is now remaining. In two windows in the chancel and the west window of the church, were emblazoned the following arms:—

G. a cinquefoil pierced, between an orle of crosses botony,
or.—*Umfravill*.

^a Harl. MSS., No. 6829, p. 428.

He also notices the following as being in a window of the nave.

Fenestra Australis.

Orate pro a'i'abus D'ni Roberti Daunce, Joh'is Daunce et Johanne, uxoris ejus.

This seems to have been the whole of the stained glass in this church, in Hollis's time; but he tells us of some armorial bearings on a certain seat in the chancel, and also over the screen.

In Cancelllo.

Depictus sup' sedulum.

Arg. 3 escutcheons, B.—

G. 3 Lucies hauriant, arg.—*Lucy.*

Depictus sup' ingressum cancelli.

G. a chevron betw. 10 cross crosslets, or,—*Kyme.*

Arg. a saltier on a chief, G. 3 escallops of the first.—*Tailboys.*

Hollis mentions a stone monument also in the chancel, bearing the following inscription:

Hic jacet D'm'us Robertus Daunce, quondam rectoristicus ecclesia, qui obiit 28^o die Januarij, Anno Domini 1466.
Cujus a'i'e, &c.

Also another in the north aisle or quire, with the following:

Hic jacet Willi. Jones, qui obiit 9^o die Octobr. 1580.
Vana, deum, requiem, sprexit, amavit, habet.

A crosse batune between 4 —

He also noticed another monument, *Juxta Ostium*;—the south door most probably is meant, which being the usual entrance and of considerably larger dimensions, would, by way of distinction, be called *The Door*.

Hic jacet Will'us Dymson, & Johanna uxori ejus, qui obiit
5^o die Augusti, A'no D'ni 1558. Cujus a'i'e &c.

In the chancel is now a very handsome mural monument of marble, to the memory of Francis Hopes, A. M., who died in the year 1704, after being Rector twenty-three years. This monument, which likewise records the virtues and decease of his wife Christiana, was erected by their daughter Christiana, wife of Stephen Fox, esquire, a relation of that celebrated senator whose transcendent talents did not fail to gain the admiration of all, even of those whose sentiments were decidedly opposed to his. There is also a slab in the floor, to the memory of another Incumbent, who enjoyed this benefice thirty-three years, viz. John Masson, who after living to the almost patriarchal age of four score years and two, quitted this world "Anno Salutatis 1747."

Three marble monuments over the vault beforementioned, commemorating different branches of the family beneath, and two or three others of recent date, are also in the church.

The porch, which is toward the south, has been rebuilt at no very distant period, and is therefore comparatively modern, but the arch of the south door is truly elegant, being enriched with matchless indented, or zig-zag bordering. The exterior walls of the nave are surmounted with an embattled parapet, and enriched with numerous heads and figures, which, like those we have observed in similar situations, although not always easily to be comprehended, or commended for purity of design, are yet exceedingly well executed.

The church is a Rectory, and has Dionysius, or, as it is commonly called, Dennis, for its guardian saint. Patron, Sir Thomas Whichcote, baronet.

The old parsonage house which stood on the south of, and adjoining the church yard, was taken down in the year 1822, and a handsome residence for the present Incumbent, the Rev. Francis Whichcote, A. M., was erected in a field, a few hundred yards from the old site, having every advantage of space for gardens and offices; as well as the benefit of a rural retreat, opening upon various and very distant agreeable prospects. Our catalogue of Rectors here is of necessity very confined, for we are unable to give more than the following, and those in a desultory manner.

About the year 1460.—Robert Daunce.

1535.—Stephen Scarrborough.

1580.—William Jones.

1704.—Francis Hopes.

1747.—John Masson.

Aswarby comprises fifteen hundred acres, of which, except one small freehold, Sir Thomas Whichcote is sole proprietor. The family mansion, standing in a park, where deer were formerly kept, consists of a noble entrance hall in the centre, with large and lofty dining and drawing rooms, library, and a chapel, with numerous and extensive offices, adapted to the residence of an ancient and wealthy family. The northern part of the house is very old, having bow windows with stone mullions, as is also the range of buildings extending in a line with the south front, towards the east. The south and west fronts are accurately delineated in the engraving.

The soil consists of wet and cold clay, with a proportion of loam and sand, yielding excellent corn. The population here

appears to have varied but little, but that variation has been rather on the increase, since the days of Queen Elizabeth, for then it is said *Aswardbie Rect. xxii familiæ*, and if we take five persons for a family it gives one hundred and ten at that period, and the number now does not extend to one hundred and thirty.

We close our observations on this village with one pleasing remark, that in no place which falls within the limits of our historical sketches, have we met with a more decided character of comfort, extreme neatness, and an appearance of quiet independence, than is here seen both with respect to the houses of the farmer and the dwellings of the cottager; affording a very convincing proof of the benefits resulting from the residence of a considerate opulent and kind landlord, in the midst of his tenantry.

BILLINGHAY.

BILLINGHAY is situate in the hundred of Langoe, a little to the left of the turnpike road leading from Sleaford to Tattershall, at about nine miles east of the former, and five west of the latter place.

There are found but few varieties in the name of this place, none perhaps in the sounding of the word, and but few in the orthography. The *Belingei* of Domesday, the *Billingey*, *Billengey*, and *Billingeis* of Testa de Nevill, and the *Byllingay* of the Exchequer Records, offer scarcely any difference in the tone and none worth remark in the mode of spelling; and all appear to have originated from the Teutonic *Bellan*, to roar, from the noise of many waves beating against its highland or bank, and the Saxon *Hay* an enclosure. The very peculiar situation of this place, which had its "sites of three fisheries" more than seven hundred years ago; and has ever since, till, perhaps, within the memory of man, been nearly environed with immense lakes and pools of water, which, in the winter season, used to form almost one uninterrupted and boundless extent of restless roaring waves; will, we trust, fully bear us out in our suggestions as to the origin of the name of this village.

When the Domesday account was taken the whole of this place appears to have belonged to the Archbishop of York,—
"Land of the Archbishop of York. In *Belingei* Swen had twelve carucates of land to be taxed. Land to four ploughs. There is Walchelin, a vassal of the Archbishop's, and two

sons of Swen, having two ploughs, and three villanes and fifteen sokemen having four ploughs. There are sixteen acres of meadow, and the sites of three fisheries. Value in King Edward's time four pounds, the same now, and five shillings more."

Billinghay, it seems, continued for two centuries or more in the same hands, for Testa de Nevill records that "William the son of Peter held in Bilengey and Walcott, one knight's fee, of the ancient feoffment, of the Archbishop of York, and the Archbishop of the King."^a

"The Archbishop of York had in Billingeie and Walcote one knight's fee, which Peter de Bilingeie held."^b

How long this place continued in the possession of the Archbishops of York is not known; but we find that, in the sixth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Henry Standish, esquire, was possessed of the manors of Billinghay and Walcott.^c The manor of Billinghay soon after came into the family of the Dymockes of South Kyme, who continued to possess it several years afterwards.

Having given these only remaining documents, so far as we are acquainted, of the ancient possessions and proprietors in this village, taken singly and without reference to its hamlets, we shall now proceed with the more modern account.

We have before us a very large parish, of great geographical extent, for it includes in its circuit, the very rare number of two large and populous hamlets, viz. Walcott and Dogdike, of which we shall anon speak briefly.

The situation of Billinghay, although in the midst of low lands and fens, is still neither so unhealthy or unpleasant as it might, naturally enough, be supposed to be. The greatly improved drainage of this tract of country, which has led

^a Testa de Nevill, p. 325. ^b Ibid, p. 340. ^c Originalia Exchequer.

close by the village a beautiful pellucid ever-flowing health-bearing stream, conjointly with a well-maintained turnpike road, opening a communication with the eastern and western divisions of the county, which two grand improvements have been the works of modern refinement, have given a different face and character to this once neglected spot.

Before enclosures became so general in this part of the country, it was the common practice of the inhabitants of each respective parish, to perambulate their boundaries once a year. The following extract from an old parish book, describing the manner of such processions, may, from its rarity, being the only written account of the same we have been able to meet with in the several places comprised in our district, be allowed a place here, and may perhaps cast some light on the history of this parish.

“Sep. 30th, 1742. Rid the bounds of the parish, and did the same last year, about a month before this time, with most of the principal inhabitants who had rid it several times before.

“The dam is the bound of the manors of Billingham and Walcott to the south-west. From the northward it abutts on the north-west side of the hedge and dike between Thorpe inclosure and Walcott commons field, as far as the Slade bottom, where there is a boundary on the east side of the hedge. From thence to the fen gate there are several boundaries, some twenty yards east of the hedge between Thorpe and Walcott field, which we opened afresh, for they are holes dug in the ground and filled with coggles, and so in time would be grown up if they were not to be opened now and then. From the far end of Walcott field we crossed over Thorpe Tinleys to Tinley Wheel, which is the most remarkable boundary, and lies upon the edge of the high land in the lowest north-west Tinley, about twenty yards east of the

hedge; from thence we went, in a straight road, past three posts to the bottom of the fen, the lowest of which posts stands on the west side of Whip Dike, and about two hundred yards east of the north-west corner of the Odds, and very near the Odd's dike. The other two posts stand in a road from this to Tinley Wheel, in a low place in the fen called Whip Dike, to which place the Fenreeves and Dikereeves of Billingham and Walcott have, time immemorial, and at this time, when the fen is not drowned, driven all trespassing stock to the common fold of Billingham, which if not owned are stray-marked and turned over to the lord of the manor of Billingham. And the parishioners of Billingham have time immemorial, and do at this time, and every year when the fen is not drowned, go a processioning to the aforesaid bounds, without any let, hindrance, or molestation whatever, to my own knowledge for these five years last past, and according to the account of all the ancient inhabitants, the Dikereeves have not been disturbed for driving the stock, or the parishioners in their processioning to the aforesaid bounds time immemorial.

“ROBERT HEWITT, Vicar.”

Another parish document acquaints us with the sufferings of this place during the murrain that prevailed generally in this kingdom, about the year 1747. “In the beginning of this year (1747), the infectious distemper began in this parish among the horned cattle; seven hundred died of it in the town of Billingham only, and, according to the best calculation, above fifteen hundred in the parish. About one in seven recovered, and several had it not. By its progress and continuance it had the appearance of a national distemper.”

“This year (1748) the infectious distemper among the horned cattle quite ceased in this nation, for which God's Holy name be praised.”

In the fenny and moory parts of this parish, as well as several others in the lower parts of the division of Kesteven, innumerable roots of trees, and several whole ones, but completely black from time, have been dug up. There have also been found several boats or canoes, made of the hollowed trunks of trees, as also the skeleton of a crocodile, enclosed in a flat stone, which is now to be seen in the Museum of the Royal Society in London. Of the causes, &c., of these remains, some account will be found in the Geological department of this work.

One parish church only now remains for Billingham and its two hamlets, which had anciently an episcopal chapel in the hamlet of Walcott, as well as a "chauntry priest at Dock-dyke;" and likewise, of course, a chapel for public worship in the priory of Catley, or Cateley, which is a sort of hamlet within the hamlet of Walcott. The church is a vicarage, dedicated to St. Michael, and its patron, Earl Fitzwilliam,

A spire steeple, with a nave and two side aisles, terminating in a chancel towards the east, all of good stone, give a complete outline of this village church. The spire was nearly rebuilt so lately as the year 1787. The roof of the nave, which is ornamented with heads and other architectural decorations, is supported by six clustered columns, having pointed arches, above which are, on each side, four small windows. A porch as usual on the south, which is rather deserving of notice, as having a Saxon or circular arch resting on round pillars. Within, we find a modern deal pewing, which being painted white, gives the church a very neat appearance; but the pulpit is of that wood which the carpenter "strengtheneth for himself of the trees of the forest," and is neatly wrought and carved. A handsome screen separates the chancel from the body of the church. A piscina appears in the south wall

of the chancel, and, in its general situation, adjoining the altar; as also another in the south aisle. The three bells were new in the year 1802. Again we meet with an octangular shaped font, having its compartments simply cut into gothic architecture of pillars with pointed arches.

It seems there was but one armorial bearing in this church, in Hollis's time, but whether that was a painting on glass, or engraven on a pew, or the pulpit, is not said. It is nothing more than

Or. 2 barres G. in chiefe 3 torteauxes.—*Wake.*

But he is more explicit in describing the sites of the tombs of two former Incumbents:—

Tumuli in Cancellis.

Hic jacet Joh'es Foster, quondam vicarius istius (loci) ecclesiæ, qui obiit 14 die Maij, A'no D'ni 1497. Cujus a'i'e &c.

Hic jacet Thomas Wilkinson, vicarius, — rector — qui obiit (1507).^a

An old monumental slab, on which remains only *Vicarius de Bplengay*, lying in the south aisle seems to have escaped the notice of Mr. Hollis. There remain three modern monuments in the church, two of which commemorate Robert Hewitt, vicar, who died in the year 1760, and his wife Mary, who died A. D. 1746. The other commemorates Elizabeth the wife of Richard Smith, gentleman, 1753.

^a Harl. MSS., No. 6829, p. 246.

The church registers commence with the year 1627, and for a considerable period were kept in the Latin language. We culled the two subjoined extracts from them. "This year (1746) one hundred and thirty-two persons had the small pox between May day and Martinmas, of whom ten only died."—"Wheat sold this Xmas (1758) at 24s. per quarter."

To the above brief account of this church, we have much pleasure in being able to add a connected and correct list of Incumbents thereof, and by whom or how instituted, for a period of more than five hundred years.

A. D. 1294.—Germanus de Brampton, . Prior and Convent
of Catley.

1324.—William de Wranby, . . . Same.

1329.—Willielmus de Hexham, . . . Same.

1342.—Willielmus de Bilingeye, . . In exchange.

1349.—Ricardus de Gardiner de Prior and Convent
Burton Pedwardyne, of Catley.

1349.—Johannes Halden de Navenby, . . Same.

1368.—Willielmus de Navenby, . . . Same.

1376.—Thomas de Willington, . . . Same.

1383.—Johannes de Botisford, . . . Same.

1401.—Johannes de Cumberton, . . . Same.

1418.—Thomas Darley, . . . In exchange.

1422.—Thomas Broddyng, . . J. Bate, jun. of Digby.

1448.—Thomas Welby, . . . Prior and Convent
of Catley.

1464.—John Rosby, Same.

—John Foster, Same.

1497.—Thomas Wilkynson, Same.

1507.—Thomas Lyster, Same.

1535.—William Taylboys, Same.

1545.—Thomas Smithmantle, Robert Dighton, gent.

1577.—Radolphus Palframan, Robert Dymoke, esq.

We have not been able to learn upon whose presentation the following Incumbents were instituted, with the exception of the present Vicar, who was presented by Earl Fitzwilliam.

A. D. 1644.—Thomas Dickenson.

1666.—Francis Robotham.

1681.—Henry Blaxley.

1722.—Thomas Squier.

1737.—Robert Hewitt.

1761.—John Lancaster.

1784.—William Strong, D. D., Archdeacon of
Peterborough, the present Vicar.

The Vicarage house stands to the south of the church, and is a neat rural edifice, surrounded with trees.

A statement of the following charitable donations was formerly painted on the walls of the church:—Alexander Bellamy gave four pounds.—John Robinson, in 1621, two pounds.—Henry Smith, senior, in 1660, ten pounds.—Nicholas Dickinson, in 1675, two pounds.—Richard Marshall, in 1697, five pounds.—And Francis Robotham, gave in 1681, five pounds; the use of which to be distributed by the Overseers, among the poor of Billingham, at Christmas and Easter for ever.

There are in this place three chapels for protestant dissenters, viz. Independents, Calvinists, and Wesleyan Methodists.

Billingham contains about four thousand acres, principally fen land, producing grain of all kinds in abundance. William Milnes, esquire, is Lord of the manor. The increase in the population of this place has been more than three-fold since the days of Elizabeth, for then there were but sixty families, and now there are one hundred and eighty-four, with a population of eight hundred and fifty-one persons.

WALCOTT.

ABOUT two miles north of Billingham is situated one of its hamlets, viz. Walcott, lying on the road towards Lincoln, its distance from which is sixteen miles.

This place, like Billingham, was chiefly held by the Archbishop of York, and is thus recorded in Domesday. "Land of the Archbishop of York. In *Walecote* is inland of this manor (Billinghay), eight carucates of land to be taxed. Land to six ploughs. Fifteen sokemen and one villane have there six ploughs, and four acres of meadow, and forty-six acres of meadow." It appears, however, that he had not the whole of this hamlet, for we find "Land of Walter de Aincourt. In *Walecote* hundred four carucates of land to be taxed. Land ——. It is soke of this manor. Seven sokemen."

The Archbishop retained his possessions here in the time of Henry III.;^a but we find that "Philip le Despencer, Lord of Gouskele or Goushill, in this county, died, seventh of Edward II., seized of lands and rents in Walcote."^b From this period we are unacquainted with the possessors of this place till about the year 1750, when it principally belonged to Richard Smith, esquire, who resided in the house now occupied by Mr. John Holmes, and of whom it was purchased by the Right Honourable Earl Fitzwilliam, who sold it again in the year 1787, to the late Anthony Peacock, esquire, of

a Testa de Nevill, p. 325.

b Escheat Rolls,

South Kyme, and others. Anthony Taylor Peacock, esquire, son of the above, is now Lord of the manor, and possesses about five hundred acres of land in the hamlet.

There was formerly a chapel in this place, dedicated to St. Oswald, which was situated in the centre of the town, about two hundred yards west of the present Methodist chapel. It was taken down forty-five years ago; but had not been used for public worship for some years previous to that time. The Rev. John Lancaster was the last person who officiated in this chapel. It consisted of one principal aisle, and a chancel, parted by a carved oak screen, and was seated with oak stalls. In an arch over the west end of the chapel hung two bells, which were sold, at the time it was taken down, for the benefit of the parish. The site of the chapel is now occupied as a garden by Mrs. Holmes.

This account of the ancient chapel of St. Oswald, belonging to the church of St. Michael at Billingham, is by far the most full and interesting of any we have met with in our researches for this history. We find it returned by the commissioners of inquiry, in the time of Queen Elizabeth,¹ as "Capella annex Walcote."

Several trees have at different times been dug up in the lower parts of this hamlet, some appearing to have been burnt and others felled. One found in the year 1811, in Walcott Dales, which seemed to have been felled, was of large dimensions, containing, nearly four hundred solid feet of wood, which, though nearly black through, was still in a sound state. A quantity of poles or underwood was very clearly discerned lying below, and by the sides of this tree, but which were quite decayed, though still retaining their original forms. One end of this tree was four feet below the surface of the field, and the other not more than one foot. Under

another tree, which was dug up a few fields south of the above, was found an axe, which was evidently the instrument with which the tree was felled. This singular situation of the axe opens a wide field for conjecture, and cannot fail to be an interesting subject for discussion amongst persons of science, and such as have a taste for occurrences of ages long since past.

Another feature peculiar to several places in this district, viz. hills or raised mounds of earth on the edge of the high grounds, is to be met with in this hamlet, several of which have recently been leveled for agricultural purposes. In one of them in Walcott commons, at the east end of the close called "Catley," where the Priory once stood, was found in the year 1817, a wooden coffin, but almost wholly decayed, of more than six feet in length, containing the bones of a human body; likewise in the same place was found a vessel or urn with brass handles, but which was broken in digging up. In another tumulus, leveled in the same year, and in the same field, were found several coffins which appeared to lie in a triangular form, and from the circumstance of there being some small as well as large ones, it is conjectured to have contained a whole family. These lay on a level with the adjacent lands, and the tumuli were composed of a light clay.

Dr. Stukeley, speaking of similar hills, says, "I guess these were the high places of worship among our Cimbrian predecessors, purposely cast up, because there are no natural hills in these parts, and we know antiquity affected high places of elevation for religious rites. No doubt some are places of sepulture, especially such as are very frequent upon the edge of the high countries all around, looking down upon the fens. Hither seem to have been carried the remains of great men, whose habitations were in the marshy grounds, who chose to be buried upon higher ground than where they lived; as is the

case all over England; for the tumuli are commonly placed upon the brink of hills hanging over a valley, where doubtless their dwellings were."^a

This hamlet, which was enclosed in the year 1779, contains upwards of three thousand acres, and, like its parent parish Billinghay, has considerably increased in its population since the return in Elizabeth's reign, for then Walcott and a place called Waterside contained fifty-seven families, and now there is a population of four hundred and seventy-two, and the number of families is increased to eighty-seven.

CATLEY PRIORY.

The Priory of Catley or Cateley, which stood in a field belonging to this hamlet, falls next under observation.—For the little that is now known of this ancient religious house, we are indebted solely to the labours of Leland, Dugdale, Tanner, and Willis, time having swept away every vestige of its extensive buildings, except part of the foundation of the walls, which may be traced.

Tanner says "Peter de Belingey built a priory here, temp. R. Stephen, for nuns and brethren of the Sempringham order,^b to the honour of the blessed Virgin."^c And we find that Peter his son, by a deed "confirmed to the monastery of Catteley all the donations of his predecessors in the territories of Bilingey and Walcot, and, of his own gift, confers on them one acre of land, called *Wyck*, in Bilingey, in pure and perpetual alms."^d

^a Itinerarium Curiosum, p. 5.

^b The reader will find a description of this order of Religious under the head "Haverholm Priory."

^c Not. Mon. p. 365.

^d Dugdale's Mon. vol. ii. p. 207.

This priory, in the bulls and charters of the Sempringham order, was placed before all others in this county, except Sempringham and Haverholm, on account, Mr. Tanner supposed, of its seniority, which the time of Peter de Belingey (who was witness to a deed of Roger Moubray's, *Mon. Angl.* tom. ii. p. 395.), will also allow.

A record in the Exchequer (eighth of Henry IV.), gives Peter the son of Henry Bilingey, the title of founder of Newstead Priory, Lincolnshire, and says he bestowed on it all he had, or might have, in the island of Cattleley, and the marshes of Walcote, as far as the old water-course by Digby marsh, &c.^a

The priory of Catley continued to flourish till the general dissolution, when William Swyfte, the last prior, surrendered this convent to the King's visitors, on the twenty-fifth of September, 1540, (thirtieth of Henry VIII.)^b when it was found to be endowed with £33. 18s. 6d. per annum, according to Dugdale, and £38. 13s. 8d. according to Speed; and was granted, thirty-first of Henry VIII., to Robert Carr of Sleaford.^c

In the year 1553, there remained in charge the following pensions; viz. to William Swyfte, £6., Thomas Weste, £2. 13s. 4d., Christopher Huddesonne, £2., and Margaret Boswell, £2. 13s. 4d.^d

Leland, in his Itinerary, says, "About a mile from Hayder I saw the ruines of Cattlely Priory, now longging to one Car of Sleaford, a proper gentilman, whos father was a rich Merchant of the Staple;"^e but here he is evidently mistaken, as the adjoining towns are described in the *Monasticon*, as being

a Dugdale's *Mon.* vol. ii. p. 207.

b Willis's *Abbeys*, vol. ii. p. 117.

c Tanner's *Not. Mon.* p. 265.

d Willis's *Abbeys*, vol. ii. p. 117.

e Itinerary, vol. i. p. 22.

Billingham, Walcott, Digby, &c. It was Wilsford Priory he no doubt saw, which was about a mile distant from Haydor.

Sir William Dugdale states, the number of religious admitted into this house, was eighty-five brothers and sixty nuns (inclusive of sisters), which number was never to be increased.^a

In the north part of Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire, are some remains of a Nunnery, originally founded by nuns of the Sempringham order, and made subordinate to the Gilbertine Priory at Catley, in Lincolnshire, by Peter de Belingey, in the time of King Stephen.^b

The pasture in which the Priory stood contains about forty acres, and is nearly surrounded by fenny land; having nothing to point out the spot of its former glories, but simply a shepherd's cottage, built out of the ruins.

About five and thirty years since, on removing some rammel or rubbish, was discovered, about six feet below the surface, what was supposed to have been the floor of the church of this Priory, which appeared to have consisted of three aisles, having large stone slabs laid in the usual manner of our church floors or pavements. Some of the slabs were mutilated, and others had inscriptions upon them, one of which, with a cross down its centre, and Saxon capitals along its border, quite perfect, lay, for several years, exposed to the weather. This slab the occupier of the field had at length removed and put down in his kitchen as a hearth stone. Under some of these slabs were found human bones and small pieces of painted glass. Judging from the foundations, which may be traced, we conceive the Priory and its offices, to have covered an extent of nearly five acres.

a Mon. vol. ii. p. 207. b Beauties of England and Wales, vol. vii. p. 235.

We scarcely ever find a religious house without possessing the advantage of some rivulet or spring in its immediate vicinity; and so we have here a brook of excellent water, running by the side of the field wherein the Priory was situated.

About three miles from Walcott, is a place belonging thereto, consisting of a row of farm houses and cottages, which, from being situated on the bank of the river Witham, is called *Waterside*. This place was distinguished by the same name in the year 1565, when it appears to have contained seventeen families. The number of families now is included in Walcott population return.

Before taking our leave of Walcott, we must not forget to notice, that the fens of that place and Billingham, previous to their enclosure in the year 1779, were, during a great part of the year, almost entirely under water, and contained an immense quantity of fish, as well as, at certain seasons, abundance of wild fowl of every description. Several parts of the above fens were also overgrown with reeds and shards, amongst which that small water-fowl called the *coot* used to breed in great numbers, large baskets full of the eggs of which have been gathered in a few hours. The profits arising from fishing and duck shooting in these fens were such, that many families were wholly supported by the same.

DOGDIKE.

WE now close our account of Billingham with a brief description of its other hamlet, Dogdike or Dockdike. There is a place mentioned in Domesday called *Dwedic*, which is supposed to mean Dogdike, but we are inclined to believe that account does not relate to the article under discussion, but to a place near Sutterton. This *township*, as the modern returns term it, is also, like Waterside, situated along the banks of the Witham, nearly four miles from Billingham, and adjoining a place called Chapel Hill.

In the church at Billingham was the following inscription in Mr. Hollis's time:—

Of yr charity pray for the sawle of Sr William
Tupholme, Parson of Waydingham, and Chaun-
try Priest of Dockdike, w^{ch} departed this life y^e
7th day of January, 1530.

So that although we have no documents to give description of a church or chapel in this place, yet the above memorial of Sir (or the *Reverend*, which was the meaning of the word *Sir* when placed before the name of an ecclesiastic,) William Tupholme, leaves no room to doubt of the existence of one or the other public place of worship here in former times.

The number of families has been doubled since the year 1565, when Dockdike had twenty-three families, and now there are forty-six, making a population of two hundred and thirty-one persons. The extent of land, which is not, strictly speaking, fen, is included in the account given of Billingham.



BLOXHAM.

BLOXHAM or **BLOXHOLM** is situated five miles north of Sleaford, and in the hundred of Flaxwell.

The first notice of this, as of most other places included in these sketches, is in the Domesday book, where we find the following:—"Land of Roger of Poicton. In *Blochesham* Turver had nine carucates of land and five oxgangs to be taxed. Land to as many ploughs and oxen. Roger of Poicton has there in the demesne one plough and a half, and eighteen sokemen and two villanes, having five ploughs and thirteen acres of meadow. Value in King Edward's time four pounds, now three pounds."—"Land of Alured of Lincoln. In *Blochesham* two carucates of land and three oxgangs to be taxed. Land to as many ploughs and oxen. There are two sokemen with half a plough."

We find that soon after the above period, Guy de Croun, Lord of Freiston and Burton, in this county, confirmed to the Nuns of Haverholm, pasture for ninescore sheep in Bloxham, even to the bounds between them and the Abbot of Grelle.^a

In the latter part of the reign of Henry III., it appears that "Thomas Grey lay held in Bloxham half a knight's fee, and a fourth part of a fee, of the honour of Lancaster, of the ancient feoffment."^b

Of the ancient proprietors and their possessions here, we have been unable to gain any information beyond what the above-quoted extracts have acquainted us with, and are therefore obliged to come at once to our modern descriptive narrative. The property at Bloxham once belonged to — Thornton, esquire, who lost it by engaging in the South Sea scheme. It was purchased by the Dutchess of Rutland, from whom it came to Lord Robert Manners, father of the late General Manners, and of the present proprietor, George Manners, esquire.

The manor house, or hall, is situated north of the village, surrounded by its gardens and pleasure grounds, and commands a most extensive prospect over the heath, on the west, from whence the above view was taken. The house is a fine old family mansion, and is at this time undergoing a complete repair, at a great expense, but with much taste.

The neatness of this small but delightful village is very striking; the whole of the houses being simply white-washed, and the gardens, some of which are large, tastefully laid out, give to this place an appearance of cleanliness and beauty, not surpassed, if equalled, by any other in the county.

^a Stukeley's *Itin. Cur.* p. 26.

^b *Testa de Nevill*, p. 312.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a singularly compact plain stone building, consisting of a nave, side aisles, chancel, and tower, with a porch on the south side. The nave is supported by four octagonal pillars, terminating in pointed arches, over which rise six small windows; the roof of the nave is neatly groined, as is also the chancel, at the east end of which, is a very handsome window of stained glass, shewing the armorial bearings of the family of Manners. Under this window stands the communion table, which is covered with red velvet. The interior of this church, as well as its exterior, is delightfully simple and plain, the pews being painted in strict uniformity, as are the two pulpits, or rather the reading desk and pulpit, which are placed on each side of the entrance to the chancel. The font, which stands in the centre, and at the west end of the middle aisle, is a plain wainscot pillar with a modern marble basin fixed thereon. How glad should we be to see the old font, if such be forthcoming, reinstated in place of the above. A handsome brass candlebranch is suspended from the roof. There are two bells and a good clock.

Round the edge of a large slab on the floor, at the east end of the north aisle, is the following inscription:—

Heare lieth the body of Robert Glasier, svmtimes
Cvret of this place, who died the 8th day of
January, in the year of ovr Lord 1652.

There is also another monumental slab, of much antiquity, in the south aisle, commemorating some Rector, but too much defaced to be deciphered, and a mural tablet, in the north aisle, to the memory of Lieutenant Colonel George Wade, of the thirtieth regiment of foot, who died on the twenty-fourth of March, 1807, aged forty-seven years.

The outside of this church having been lately entirely redressed, the stone being scoured and scraped, gives it the

appearance of a new building. The tower is ornamented with pinnacles at each angle, and the porch, which is in the gothic style, is surmounted with the arms of Manners, admirably cut in stone.

The patron of the living, which is a Rectory, united to the vicarage of Digby in the year 1717, is George Manners, esquire.

Robertus de Easton was Rector,	A. D. 1280.
Milon' Garnett,	1535.
Richard Disney,	1708.
Gilbert Smith,	1732.
Henry Peckwell, D. D.,	1782.
Daniel Mackinnon, (present Rector,)	1784.

Bloxham continues to increase in its population, for we find in the year 1801, there were eighty-one persons, and now there are one hundred and nine resident therein.

This village is famous as being the native place of

JOHN DE BLOXHAM,

who was bred a Carmelite Friar at Chester, and became a person of that eminency for learning and activity, that he was made the supreme Prefect, or Provincial, of his order of Carmelites, through the three kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland. He therefore advantageously fixed himself at Chester, a city of England, near Ireland, and not far from Scotland, which much conduced to his ease. This dignity, however, he did not hold longer than two years and a half, for being employed in several embassies into Scotland and Ireland, by the Kings Edward II. and III., he quitted his spiritual office to attend the public service. He flourished A. D. 1334.^a

^a Vide Fuller's Worthies.

BURTON PEDWARDINE.

BURTON PEDWARDINE, or, as it was formerly called, Burton Creon or Croun, is a small village in the wapentake of Aswardhurn, about four miles south-east from Sleaford, the earliest notice we find of which is in the Domesday survey, from whence we transcribe the following extracts.

“Land of Ivo Talbois. In *Bertune* and *Torp* — had fourteen oxgangs of land to be taxed. Land to fourteen oxen. Azor, a vassal of Ivo's, has there three villanes and two bordars, with two ploughs and three hundred acres of coppice wood, and thirteen acres of meadow. Value in King Edward's time thirty shillings, now twenty shillings. This belongs to Bergebi.”

“Land of Wido de Credon. In *Burtun* Adestan had ten carucates of land to be taxed. Land to seventeen ploughs. Wido has there five ploughs, and thirty sokemen, and nine villanes, and twelve bordars, having eleven ploughs and a half. There is a priest and a church, and one mill of two shillings, and one hundred and twenty acres of meadow. Value in King Edward's time six pounds, now eight pounds. Tallaged at forty shillings.”

The whole of this place seems to have been in the hands of the Croun family when Testa de Nevill was taken, for we find that at that period, “Petronilla de Creon held in Burton of the King, four carucates of land of the old feoffment.

“Also Lambert de Quappelad held there of the same Petronilla, four bovates of land, and the ninth part of a

knight's fee, and the said Petronilla of the King in capite, of the old feoffment."^a

"Peter Angevin held the ninth part of a knight's fee of Petronilla de Creon, in Burton."^b

This village, as is above seen, with that of Freiston near Boston, was bestowed upon Wido de Credon or Croun, by William the Conqueror, for the important services he received from that family in the subjugation of this kingdom. At this place was a seat of the Crouns, but the head of the barony appears to have been at Freiston. This family shared largely of the conquered spoils, for we are told that Wido de Credon had lands in, and that his fee extended to, forty-six parishes beside the two abovementioned, in this county alone, with some others in Leicestershire, which made the total of his manors amount to sixty, as appears in Domesday Book.

To the above Wido de Credon or Croun succeeded his son Alan, who it would seem was the first who had a seat or mansion here. This person, from his hospitality at his seat at Freiston, was called *Opendore*.^c Maurice, heir of the above, was succeeded by his son, a second Wido de Croun, whose daughter Petronilla, through failure of male issue, became heiress to his estates in this village. This Petronilla de Croun married William de Longchamp, son to the Abbot of Croyland, which Abbot held half the village of Claxby, in alms of the same Petronilla, who also, most probably, conveyed to her husband her right and title in Burton Croun. Their eldest son Henry Longchamp, having also no male heir, left his daughter Alicia, his heiress, married to one Roger Pedwardyn, who, in his turn, becoming possessor of this place,

a Testa de Nevill, p. 322.

b Ibid., p. 340.

c Vide Leland's Itinerary, vol. vii, p. 152.

and being succeeded by a long line of descendants, the ancient addition of *Crown* to Burton, would in time give place to that of *Pedwardyn*, or *Pedwardine*, which it retains to this day.

We find it recorded of the above Henry Longchamp, that, dying in the year 1274, his body was buried in Swineshead Abbey, and his heart was interred before the altar in the chapel of the Virgin Mary, at Burton Pedwardine. It does not appear, however, from any writings we have seen or heard of, that the village was ever called after this family, nor, indeed, when we consider that the name ceased in the son of William de Longchamp, it is not at all probable. We therefore come to the conclusion that *Crown* and *Pedwardine* have been the only two addenda to the name of this Burton.

Alicia Longchamp, wife of Roger Pedwardyn, the first of that family residing here, died A. D. 1330, and was buried in the same chapel at Burton; in which the heart of her father was laid. In a highly ornamented elliptic niche, on the north side of this chapel, is still seen her monumental tomb of black marble, bearing this inscription in Saxon capitals, "*Dame Alis. de Pettewardin gyt. ity. deu. de. sa. Alme gyt. merci.*"^a The above Roger Pedwardyn entirely rebuilt the church with the chapel of the Virgin Mary on the north, the parishioners at the same time building the south aisle, with its south chapel of St. Nicholas. The rebuilding of the church, it is said, took place in the year 1340.

The eldest son by this marriage was Walter, who, by his second wife, Maud the daughter of Sir John Lyngain, had a son called Roger, who was his heir. This Roger, or as he is called, Sir Roger Pedwardyn, married Agnes daughter of Philip D'Arcy, sister and coheirress of Norman D'Arcy, of Nocton in this county. He obtained a bull for five hundred

^a Dame Alis Pettewardin lies here, on whose soul may God have mercy.

and thirty days pardon to all benefactors towards the church and chapels at Burton, and, dying in the year 1368, was buried there, leaving issue Brian Pedwardyn, and Sir Walter his successor, who died A. D. 1405, leaving, by his wife Margaret, daughter and coheirress of Marmaduke Tweng, knight, Sir Robert Pedwardyn, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edward Pierpont, knight. He died in the year 1432, and was succeeded by his son, Walter Pedwardyn, esquire, who died A. D. 1420, and left, by his wife Katharine, daughter of — Ingleby, of Ripley near Knaresborough, Roger Pedwardyn, the third of that name, and then followed Christopher Pedwardyn of Brompton, Salop, his son and heir, who released all his right to the manor of Burton Pedwardine.^a

This manor next came by mesne conveyance to Sir Thomas Horseman, knight, and accordingly we find preserved among the records in the Exchequer, that in the sixth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, (A. D. 1564.) "Mareham Grange, with other property in the counties of Lincoln and Leicester, was granted to Thomas Horseman."^b It appears also that, at the same time, "Simon Hall was made to shew by what title he held a certain Grange, called Mareham Grange, in the parish of Burton Petwarden, in the county of Lincoln."^c

The above Sir Thomas Horseman, it is supposed, lived at Mareham Grange, which is situated about two miles south of Sleaford, adjoining the old Hermen Street, or, as it is now called, Mareham lane, and where there is still the appearance of foundations of an ancient mansion, moated round, which Dr. Stukeley took notice of, as may be seen by a reference to the thirteenth page of this work.

By the daughter of Sir Thomas Horseman, the manor came

a Claus. 7th Ed. IV, in 8. Linc.

b Originalia Exchequer.

c Ibid.

to Sir Charles Orby, baronet, who leaving no issue it descended to his brother, Sir Thomas Orby, baronet, whose only daughter and heiress marrying Robert Hunter, esquire, Governor of Jamaica, &c., the manor and estates next came into that family, of whom it was purchased by Benjamin Handley, esquire, of Sleaford, the present lord of the said manor.

“In the third year of the reign of Edward I. it was found by inquisition, that the Prior of Freiston held in the vill of Burton, in the wapentake of Aswardhurn, six oxgangs of land, of the gift of the ancestors of Henry Longueville, worth by the year six marks; and were accustomed to be geldable, but now are in frank almoinge, &c.”^a

The church which formerly stood on the site of the present one, was built, as we have before stated, in the year 1340, and was a handsome building, in the form of a cross, having its tower in the centre; and consisted of a nave, chancel, and two chapels, one on the north, dedicated to St. Mary, and the other on the south, to St. Nicholas. In the year 1802, in attempting to repair the tower, the south west angle of it gave way, and falling upon the church, damaged it so much, that it was found necessary to take it down, as well as the chapel of St. Nicholas, which had been in a ruinous state several years. The present church was built on the site of the old chancel, and consists of a low tower containing one bell, and a single aisle, of plain workmanship.

St. Mary's chapel, which still remains, joins the north side of the present church, and is supported by several well carved buttresses, in each of which is a beautiful ornamented niche, and has three windows, with stone mullions, two of which are made up with mortar drawing. In this chapel is a superb

^a Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. iv. p. 124.

marble monument, about twelve feet high and nine wide, to the memory of Thomas Horseman, esquire, who died on the twenty-sixth day of November, 1610, aged seventy-four years. It consists of two pillars of black marble, with gilt capitals, and a double arched canopy, under which is the recumbent figure, of full size and in white marble, of the deceased, in armour, with his hands on his breast, his head resting on a carved cushion, his sword girded to his side, and his spurs on. Besides the above, and the monument of Dame Alis Pettewardin before described, there is a brass tablet, on the floor of this chapel, commemorating Thomas Horseman, esquire, who departed this life, the second of April, 1631.

As might be expected in a place graced with two such families as Credon or Croun, and Pedwardyn, the windows of its church would sparkle with their armorial bearings, so we find there was anciently such an abundance of stained glass here, as, perhaps, no other village, of its extent, could exhibit.

Fen. orient' cancelli.

G. 2 lions passant, or.—*Pedwardyn.*

Lozengy, or. and G.—*Croun.*

Fen. bor. superior.

G. 2 lions passant, hors del champ, or.

G. 2 lions passant, hors del champ, or. a label of 5, arg.

G. 2 lions passant, hors del champ, or.

Out of a crown, G. a lion's paw, or.—*Pedwardyn's Crest.*

Fen. australis.

G. 2 lions passant, or.—*Pedwardyn.*

Or. 3 crescents, G. charged with a plate.—*Longchamp.*

Fen. chori borealis.

Femina, genu flexo, snper vestum. G. 2 lions passant, or. dextratenens, insigne oneratum.

Or. on three crescents, G. as many plates.—*Longchamp*.
Altera femina itidem supportans insignia super vestum Long-
champ, insigni.
Lozengy, or. et G.—*Crown*.^a

The Rev. Lewis Jones is the present Vicar of this church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, and under the patronage of Benjamin Handley, esquire. The presentation appears to have been, anciently, with the Abbots of Croyland, for we find in the year 1280, "John de Pason was presented by the Abbot of Croyland to Burton near Lafford."

Of the modern state of Burton we have it in our power to give a very favourable account. Its naturally good and productive strong clay soil, which was for many years so much neglected, and almost ruined for want of drainage and cultivation, but especially drainage, has lately undergone a vast improvement; at a great expense, by the modern system of underdrains, in addition to the opening of top ditches and sewers; and likewise the appearance of the place has also been much benefited, by the erection of several excellent farm houses; and, to crown the whole, a communication with the Boston turnpike, by an excellent gravel road, is now opened to its inhabitants, who were formerly shut up from almost all society for more than half their days. By an enclosure in the year 1802. the parish was found to contain two thousand acres, at which time that stumbling-block of offence between the pastor and his flock, the tithes, was exonerated. An extensive cover for foxes here is in good repute, as scarcely ever failing to afford excellent diversion to those who are attached to the sports of the field. In a field, lying north-east of the town, is a hill which has the appearance of a tumulus. Similar hills are

^a Hollis's Notes, Harl. MSS., No. 6829, p. 285.

to be found in many places in this neighbourhood, which, unlike those found on the edge of the fens, are conjectured to have been thrown up to cover the slain in the various battles which took place with the Danes, when they laid waste this country with fire and sword, A. D. 870. The supposition is greatly strengthened by these hills being found in the direct track of these invaders.

The present number of houses in this place, as well as the population, although increased one third within the last twenty years, there being in the year 1801 but fourteen, and in 1821, twenty-one houses with a population of one hundred and twenty-one persons, is yet much below the number of houses, and consequently the population, in the time of Queen Elizabeth, when there were in "Burtonne, vic. xxv. familiæ."

We close our account of Burton Pedwardine with two extracts from a public Journal, relative to a melancholy occurrence that happened in this place, near a century ago, affording an awful instance of ungoverned passion and its fatal effects. "This day is published a full and true account of the apprehending and taking of Thomas Micael, alias Mitchell, esq. of Burton Pepperdine near Sleaford, in the county of Lincoln (one of His Majesty's Justices of the peace for the said county), for the barbarous murder of Pennystone Warden of Ewerby, in the said county, Sheriff's officer, in the execution of his office, on Monday the 6th day of this instant May, 1728, and of his being committed to the castle of Lincoln by two of His Majesty's Justices of the peace, to be tried for the same at the next Assizes."^a—"At Lincoln Assizes Thomas Mitchell, esq., commonly called Captain Mitchell, received sentence of death for the murder of a bailiff, who had taken some cattle of his in execution."^b

^a Stamford Mercury, May 16th, 1728.

^b Ibid. August 15th, 1728.

CRANWELL.

WE have here a very retired and small village, situated in the hundred of Flaxwell, and four miles north-west of Sleaford, which is thus noticed in the Domesday record.—“ Land of St. Benedict of Ramsey. In *Coteland* St. Benedict has half a carucate of meadow to be taxed in *Craneuuelle*.”—“ Land of Gilbert de Gand. In *Cranewelle* Ulf had twelve carucates of land to be taxed. Land to as many ploughs. Goisfrid, a vassal of Gilbert's, has there one plough in the demesne, and twenty-one sokemen have nine carucates of this land, and two villanes and five bordars with eight ploughs, and twenty-nine acres of meadow. The arable land is twenty-two quarentens long, and seven and a half broad. The grazing land is ten quarentens long, and seven and a half broad. Value in King Edward's time one hundred shillings, now seven pounds. In *Craneuuelle*, inland of this manor, is one carucate and a half of land to be taxed. Azor had the soke of this land. Goisfrid, a vassal of Gilbert's, has there six villanes and one bordar with one plough, and seventeen acres and a half of meadow, Value in King Edward's time twenty shillings, now ten shillings.”

To this earliest account of the ancient lords of the soil in this place, we add the following extracts, from various sources.

About the year 1270, “ Galfrid Selvayn held in the village of Cranewell, the eighth part of a knight's fee, of the Abbot of Ramsey, and the same Abbot of the King in capite.

“Also the Prior of Sempringham held in the same place, the fourth part of a knight’s fee of Humphrey de Welle, of the ancient feoffment, and Humphrey of Galfrid de Ermets, and Galfrid of Gilbert de Gaunt, and Gilbert of the King in capite.

“Also Alan de Cranewell held, in the same place, half a knight’s fee of the Knights’ Templars, in pure and perpetual eleemosynary, and they of Galfrid de Ermits, and Galfrid of Gilbert de Gaunt, and he of the King in capite.”^a

“In the thirty-first of Edward I. the Master of the Knights’ Templars made a fine with the king, for twenty shillings, for license to enter into certain tenements in Cranewell.”^b

“Philip le Despenser, Lord of Goushele or Goushill, co. Linc. died, seventh of Edward II., seised of lands and rents in Cranewell, in Lincolnshire.”^c

Scarcely a shade of difference exists in the orthography or orthoepey of the place under discussion, at this day and in the time of the Norman conqueror; for then it was spelt both *Craneuuelle* and *Cranewelle*, and now it is *Cranwell*. So that whatever may be supposed to have been the cause from whence the name of this village took its rise, will apply equally to remote ages as to present times. We will venture to suggest two reasons for the same. But first we bring before our readers what we conceive to be the striking feature in this place, which is that of a beautiful spring issuing out of a cleft in a rock, and emptying itself into a stone cistern, or well, immediately beneath it. One reason then for the name of this village, might have been taken from the resemblance of this spring and its cistern below, to that species of the Crane called the *Argill*, a native of Africa, of which

a Testa de Nevill, p. 319. b Originalia Exchequer. c Escheat Rolls.

fabulous history relates, that it had under its neck a bag which would contain two gallons of water. Or, perhaps, with a greater shew of probability, Cranwell might have had its name from *Cranny* a chink, and *well*, i. e. a well formed and supplied with water, not in the usual way by digging deep and boring for a spring, but which is supplied from a cranny or chink in the rock immediately above it.

The situation of this village is singularly interesting, being, notwithstanding its contiguity with the Lincoln turnpike road, with which there is a direct and straight communication, peculiarly retired; for the fine old timber with which the village is adorned, so completely shelters and shades its humble roofs, and as humble House of Prayer, that even in the winter the chimneys, with their curling smoke, are scarcely to be discerned; and in summer every appearance of a living habitable village is entirely done away.

The church, though exceeding humble, and without those usual attractions of enriched and costly decorated architecture, for which the churches in Lincolnshire stand so proudly pre-eminent, is yet not without its simple beauties; and has been over and over again contemplated and admired, by the writer of this article, as bringing before his eyes that kind of village house of worship, with its quiet and sequestered spot allotted for the last remains of mortality, which it may be supposed was in the mind of the amiable poet *Gray*, when he wrote his delightful "*Elegy*." In a secluded cemetery, planted on three of its sides with elm trees, which, as well as the cemetery itself, are kept in the nicest order, stands this rural church, which consists of a nave, north aisle, chancel, and porch, all on a very reduced scale, having neither tower nor spire, but merely a stone-bow, or arch, at the west end, in which is suspended the bell. The building is of stone

year 1816, and a small neat farm house, with suitable offices, was built out of part of the materials and on the same site. The grounds still retain a semblance of their former glories; and the hedge-rows of box, with pastures and terraces, and an avenue along the edge of the opposite field for the purpose of a summer drive, and some very large and fine old timber, afford a sort of melancholy recollection of the days and years long since passed away.

To the family of Thorold this village is, without doubt, indebted for its present attractive beauties. The trees in the church yard, and a lengthened avenue of elms, leading from the village to what was formerly the heath, on the west, were doubtless raised under their care.

Concerning the population of this place we cannot, as usual, draw our comparison from the returns in Queen Elizabeth's reign, for there is a great singularity respecting Cranwell in that return, for it is there stated that, in the year 1565, "*Cranewell in qua est tantum un' mans.*," but not a word said about the number of families. That there was only one mansion, viz. that we have before noticed as belonging to the family of Thorold, we can readily believe, but are inclined to suppose there were some other families in the village besides, though the subsequent commencement of the parish registers affords no clue to unravel the mystery, yet the consequent necessity of attendants required by a family of distinction, convince us that such must have been the case. By the modern returns of the population, we find an amazing increase in this place since the year 1801, when there were eighty persons, and at the taking of the last census, A. D. 1821, there were found one hundred and fifty-five persons residing therein. Such an increase as this may, in a great measure, be accounted for by the vast accession of heath and barren common thrown into cultivation.

DIGBY.

DIGBY, which gives the title of Earl to the family of Digby, is a populous village in the hundred of Flaxwell, situated six miles north-east of Sleaford, on the low road to Lincoln.

In the time of William the Conqueror, Geoffry Alselin was possessed of the whole of this place, for, in the Domesday record, we find "Land of Geoffry Alselin. In *Dicbi* twelve carucates of land to be taxed. Land to as many ploughs. Thirty-five sokemen have there twelve ploughs, and one hundred acres of meadow, and ten acres of coppice wood."

In the latter part of the reign of Henry III., "William Bardulf held in the village of Digby, one knight's fee of the King in capite, of the old feoffment.

"Also Robert de Tilton and William the son of Galfrid, each held half a knight's fee of the above William Bardulf, of the old feoffment, and the said William of the King."^a

It appears that in the sixth year of the reign of Edward III. (A. D. 1333), "Lena the wife of John Aylmer of Diggeby, made a fine for twenty shillings, for permission to take certain lands and tenements, with the appurtenances, in Diggeby."^b

An Act of Parliament was procured in the year 1477, by Everand Digby."^c

Having no other early accounts of this place, we next proceed with our description of the parish church, which is dedicated to St. Thomas a Becket. It is a neat gothic struc-

a Testa de Nevill, p. 319.

b Originalia Exchequer.

c Ibid.

ture of stone, and consists of a lofty spire, a nave, north and south aisles, a chancel, and porch. The nave is separated from the aisles by eight slender pillars, supporting gothic arches, over which rise twelve windows. The seats are partly wainscot pews, and partly old oak stalls, with a loft or gallery at the west end of the nave. The pulpit, though carved in an ancient is yet painted in a modern style. An octagonal font stands on an ornamented pedestal or pillar, and is elaborately enriched with carved work on each side. In the south aisle is a piscini, as well as another in the chancel, which is, as usual, parted from the nave by a gothic screen.

The following extracts from Hollis's Notes, inform us that John Aylmer and his wife gave the eastern window of the nave to this church, and that their names were painted thereon, and also that the upper south window was decorated with the names of many benefactors.

Fen, orient' australis.

Priez pur. Johan' Elmere & Lena sa femme.

Johannes Aylmer & ——— uxor sua me fecerunt.

*Fenestræ superiores australis campanis conjunctis decoratæ,
& plures ejus nominis benefactores.*

Cooke & Beeche.^a

In the north-east window is still a small quantity of stained glass, as a few oak leaves, &c., and a few remains likewise in the two north windows.

There is not a single monumental inscription in the church; but there are three plain altar tombs in the church yard, two

^a Harl, MSS., No. 6829, p. 327.

of which are to the memory of the family of Cooke. The oldest inscription is on a grave stone to the memory of Elizabeth Jackson, who died in the year 1735.

The exterior architecture of this church is rather ornamental; the tower, which contains three bells, being adorned with an embattled parapet, enriched with blank shields, and having crotched pinnacles at each angle; from whence rises the spire, adorned also with crotchets, and having windows or apertures at intervals to the top. The nave is surmounted by an embattled parapet, corresponding with the one abovementioned, and has three ornamented pinnacles at the east end. The side aisles and chancel are quite plain, but the latter being covered with tiles, gives to the church a very unprepossessing appearance. The porch itself is entirely devoid of ornament, but the entrance to the church is through a beautifully wrought Saxon arch, supported on plain pillars with capitals.

The Vicarage of Digby, which was anciently impropriated to the Priory of Catley, was united to the Rectory of Bloxham in the year 1717. We find John Burdoke was Vicar, A. D. 1535, after which time we have no account till the year 1679, when Roger Brecknock appears to have been the Incumbent, and who was succeeded by W. Harvey, A. D. 1711. The livings being united soon after the above period, the succeeding Vicars will be found given in our Sketch of Bloxham.

In the church is a tablet bearing an account of the charity of Mr. Henry Young, a native of this place, and gardener to the Duke of Rutland, who, in the year 1761, settled nine acres of land, in Freiston in this county, for the benefit of widows and poor children of this parish for ever, viz. twenty shillings to be given yearly on St. Thomas's day, among four poor widows, in equal proportions, and the remainder, after certain deductions for repairs, taxes, &c., to be appropriated for teaching eight poor children to read, write, and cast accounts.

It appears, by the following extract from the Register Book, that the plague raged here in the year 1604.—“Memorandum. That in an old register belonging to this parish, is found a great mortality, one hundred and thirty-four funerals, and most of them in July, August, and September, in 1604, being about the first year of James I., and, compared with the history of that time, was undoubtedly the plague. J. W.”

This village is very, retired, rural and pleasant, with a small rivulet of beautiful water running through part of it. There is a stone cross, in a high state of preservation, standing a short distance south-east of the church, which being the only perfect one in this part of the country, is consequently an object of much interest. The enclosure of the parish took place in the year 1720, when it was the property of — Thornton, esquire, who, embarking in the South Sea Scheme, lost it, together with the lordship of Bloxham, as has been before stated. It was soon after purchased by Sir Dudley Rider, from whom it descended to Earl Harrowby, the present lord of the manor.

In noticing the population of this parish, the reader doubtless will be struck, as we ourselves were, with a very singular circumstance in the two parliamentary returns, which we transcribe. The one, in 1801, returns Digby as having fifty-four inhabited houses, fifty-seven families, and a population of two hundred and forty-two persons, and also two houses untenanted. The other, twenty years subsequent, viz. 1821, states this place to have but fifty houses in the whole, and all inhabited: but what appears very remarkable is, that although the number of inhabited houses is reduced by four, the number of families is increased seven, viz. to sixty-four, making a population of two hundred and seventy-seven persons. There were in Queen Elizabeth's days fifty-three families here.

DORRINGTON.

DORRINGTON, which we derive from the Welch *Duur*, water, and *ington*, a common ending for towns and villages, is a small village, situate about five miles north-east of Sleaford; in the hundred of Flaxwell, and is thus described in Domesday Book.—“Land of Geoffry Alselin. In *Derintone* twelve carucates of land to be taxed. Land to twelve ploughs. Geoffry has there one plough in the demesne, and twenty-eight soke-men, and eight bordars, with seven ploughs. One of his vassals has there nine oxgangs of land with one plough. It is worth twenty shillings. There are one hundred and sixty acres of meadow, and fifty acres of coppice wood.”

To this extract from Domesday we add the following from Testa de Nevill:—

“Robert de Dirington held in Dirington, one knight’s fee of William Bardulf, and he of the King in capite.

“Also the Prior of Haverholm held in the same place, half a knight’s fee of the gift of Radolph de Hamslap, of the new feoffment.

“The same Prior also held in the same place, half a knight’s fee of William de Bovile, of the new feoffment, and William held it of Radolph de Hamslap, and Radolph of Robert de Everingham, and Robert of the King, of the old feoffment; the Prior rendering scutage^a to Robert de Everingham, and Robert to the King.”^b

^a Scutage was a peculiar satisfaction for military service. BLACKSTONE. 7

^b Testa de Nevill, p. 319.

Before commencing our description of the parish, we deem it necessary to introduce the two following extracts relative thereto.

"In the twenty-second of Queen Elizabeth, (A. D. 1580,) George Wolmer, esquire, held the Rectory of Durrington in the county of Lincoln."^a

"Robert Oldfield, in the fourteenth of James I. (A. D. 1617), was made to shew, why the Rectory of Durrington in the county of Lincoln, should not be seised into the hands of the King."^b

The church, which is situated nearly half a mile north of the village, is dedicated to St. James, and was formerly appropriated to the Priory of Haverholm. Sir Gilbert Heathcote is the present patron. The structure is of stone, having a low tower, a nave, separated from a north and south aisle by four pillars, bearing pointed arches, over which rise six Saxon arched windows, and a chancel, which, as well as the two side aisles, has an unseemly covering of pan-tiles, but is enriched, at the east end, with several architectural decorations, and a handsome cross, which has suffered a little on the north side from the destroying hand of Time. The church is chiefly seated with oak stalls, which bear several curious devices, with a few enclosed pews. The pulpit is of oak, carved on each side. The font is a plain round stone lined with lead. The chancel is parted from the nave by a screen, over which is the Decalogue, supported by Moses and Aaron in their full robes. In the south-east corner of the church, in an ornamented niche, is a piscini, formerly used for holy water, as also another on the opposite side, and a third on the left side of the Communion table, under a Saxon arch, with round pillars and embossed

a Originalia Exchequer.

b Ibid.

capitals. The tower contains three bells, one of which bears the names of John Todkill, gent. and Robert Standish, gent.

In the chancel are numerous monuments, some of which are executed with great taste, chiefly to the memory of various branches of the families of Oldfield and Todkill, who, for a long period resided in this village, and were in their days of some consequence in this part of the country.

Besides the present Incumbent, the Rev. — Warren, and his predecessor the Rev. John Maydwell, we are acquainted with only one name, viz. that of William More, who appears to have been Vicar in the year 1585.

The vicarage house is a small low building, situated in the midst of the village, about half a mile south-east of the church, and is at this time occupied as a farm-house; on the east side of which stands the remains of a stone cross.

In this place was also a chapel of ease, or oratory, called *Shefford*, which, doubtless, stood upon that spot adjoining the ford, now known by the the name of *Chapel hill*. It is supposed this was intended as a chapel of ease, for the accommodation of the inhabitants, since the parish church stood at such an inconvenient distance from the village, there not being a house within a quarter of a mile of it: indeed such is the distance of the church from the village, that, until within a few years, when the regularity of the appointed times for divine service was not so remarkable as in the present day, a bell was hung in an oak frame in the village, which was tolled, in the manner of a church bell, to give notice of the hour of prayer. It appears that the rite of baptism (which is a very unusual thing in a chapel, and strengthens our supposition of this being a chapel of ease,) was celebrated here, and, notwithstanding it has not existed for more than six score years, they pretend to tell us that an adopted child of Mrs. Oldfield's, of the name of Reast, was the last person baptized therein. About the year

“Land of Colegrim. Soke. In *Evedune* two oxgangs of land to be taxed. Land to two oxen. There is a church there, and two acres of meadow, and one acre of coppice wood, and five acres of marsh.”

Evedune then, as is here seen, was the name by which this place was known more than seven hundred years ago; and we cannot help expressing our surprise at the little alteration, which such a vast distance of time has made, in the manner of spelling this, and many other names of places in the county of Lincoln generally. And, viewing the peculiar feature of this place, which, by the way, is exceedingly curious, and by no means deficient in picturesque beauties, its situation being on a hill, gently swelling in the midst of flats and marshes, and bounded on the west and north by a river, we feel no hesitation in deriving the word *Evedune* from the Saxon *ea*, which signifies water, river, &c., and *dun*, a hill; that is to say, a hill near a river, or watery marsh, and such decidedly is the situation of Evedon.

From the Testa de Nevill we learn that Hugh de Nevill, Beatrice de Engleby, Henry de Hornhingerd, and others, held fees in this place, A. D. 1270, the particulars of which are so incorporated in the account given of Kirkby, as to be deemed impracticable to separate.

The church, carries marks of much antiquity, (particularly the north side, which we conceive to be considerably older than the tower,) and to a lover of the place where his forefathers have worshipped, discovers melancholy symptoms of decay. In the year 1809, it was considerably reduced, by taking down the north aisle, and put into a state of comparative comfort and security: it now consists of a low tower, nave, and chancel.

Although Evedon, itself, has no natural curiosities to boast of, yet might be proud of an acquired one in an inscription on a

brass tablet, in its church, to the memory of Daniel Hardeby, esquire, justice of the peace, &c., whereby is handed down to posterity, in lines of uncommon simplicity, beauty, and chastity, "a village Hampden, or mute inglorious Milton." That the reader may form his opinion thereon, we transcribe it.

Jvst did this Jvstice live, and dyinge jvst
 As all good mortalls ovght, sleeps here in dust;
 Blest sleep! where dyinge ashes do recelue,
 An heauenly body from an earthly graue.

Appended to the above is a plate of copper, whereon is engraven the father and mother kneeling at prayer, attended by thirteen children standing, viz. five boys behind the father, and eight girls behind the mother. This monument is without date, but supposed to be about the year 1560.

The Hardebys were of very ancient standing in this place, and persons of distinction, for we find one of that name presenting to the Rectory so early as A. D. 1419, and another, a female branch thereof, nearly allied by marriage to the Earl of Lindsey.

There is also a mural monument of marble, to the memory of Sir Peregrine Bertie, third son of Robert, Earl of Lindsey, and Ann his wife, which is exquisitely pure in its design, and reflects a lasting lustre on an affectionate daughter, whose only wish, it appears, was to perpetuate the memory of a father and mother. Reader, if thou canst, "go and do likewise!" This was an early branch of the house of Ancaster, whose noble Duke, but a few years since the pride and ornament of this county, has paid the debt of nature, and descended to his grave "in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season."

The church contains a beautiful octagonal font, whereon is deeply cut on one of the faces or shields, in ancient characters,

Ruskington & to Ewerby, 4*d*. Spent at the bonfire on the King's birthday, 7*s*. Item at Sleeford among the soldiers and townsmen, 8*s*. 6*d*. Colours for the New Town soldiers, 3*s*. Bandillerres (leathern belts worn anciently by the Musqueteers, both for the sustaining of their fire-arms, and for the carriage of their musquet charges), 2*s*. 8*d*. Powder and match, 10*d*. Musket mending, —. For training the last day at Rossby, 2*s*. 4*d*. The soldiers at Willowby training, 5*s*. One gentleman and 4 children with letter of request, 6*d*. 1663—An hue & cry to Kirkby for a horse, 3*d*. Item, muster master, 3*s*. 2*d*. 1664—Perambulation, spent 7*s*. Bread & drinke, watchers all night, 6*d*. An hue & cry in the night for 2 horses, 4*d*. Another hue & cry in the morning, 2*d*. An hue & cry for a grey maire, 2*d*. The first three month tax for the royal aid, 5*d*. in the pound. Repaire of Lincoln cathedral, 8*s*. 2*d*. 1665—To 14 gipyes, 1*s*. 3 maimed soldiers, 3*d*. A sword fourbishing, —. Edward Clarke, sen. for whipping the dogs, 1*s*. 2*d*. 1676—Spent with the neighbours on Holy Thursday, 7*s*. For two foulmords heads, 4*d*. William Widdrington, gent. buried 1683,—a Roman catholic priest.

In this village lived, and most probably died, the Sir Peregrine Bertie before-noticed, whose widow afterwards married William Lord Widdrington, Baron of Blankney, in this county, and it is supposed that he also lived here till his death, leaving his widow behind. The old house near the church, in which Mr. Snow now resides, was decidedly the place of their residence. Here also the unfortunate and misguided nobleman, Lord Widdrington, son of the above, held a distinguished station, having large possessions, who, being justly condemned to death for treason against his sovereign, was pardoned and spared to tell of the mercy of his prince.

The chief part of the parish now belongs to Mrs. Nesbit; the soil is generally a stiff clay, with some good pasture and feeding grounds. A broad and coarse pathway of large and irregular stones, which, from their being chiefly wrought and chiseled, are supposed to have formerly belonged to some buildings, leads from the church yard to the extremity of the village, which though small in population, is lengthened out to a considerable distance from thence. In the time of Queen Elizabeth, Evedon contained thirteen families, in the year 1801, fifteen, and in 1821, seventeen, with a population of eighty-nine.

EWERBY, WITH AUSTHORPE.

THIS is a small village, (formerly a market town,) in the hundred of Aswardhurn, and situated four miles nearly east from Sleaford.

Considerable difficulty appears to present itself in selecting extracts, elucidatory of this place, from Domesday Book ; but, from the connection of the following with several places in the vicinity of Ewerby and Austhorpe, we hesitate not to transcribe them.

“Land of the Bishop of Lincoln. In *Lopintorp* (a manor) two carucates to be taxed. Land to two ploughs. Value twenty shillings.

“In *Geresbi* thirteen oxgangs of land to be taxed. Land to ten oxen.”

“Land of Gilbert de Gand. Soke. In *Oustorp* and *Leresbi* three carucates of land to be taxed. Land to two ploughs. Nine sokemen and nine bordars have there four ploughs. There is a church and a priest, and twenty-four acres of meadow, and twenty acres of coppice wood.”

“Land of Colsuain. Manor. In *Oustorp* Eddive had three carucates of land and a half, and one oxgang to be taxed. Land to three ploughs. Colsuain has there two ploughs, and eight villanes with one plough, and forty-four acres of meadow, and twenty-three acres of coppice wood. Value in King Edward's time thirty-six shillings, now thirty shillings.”

Testa de Nevill gives the following account relative to this place:—“Nicholas de Hoyland and Walter his brother, held of

Osberto two carucates of land in Iwardby, without service, and Osberto of Henry de Quinton.

“Alured de Ywarby held the fifth part of one knight’s fee in Ywarby, of Gilbert de Gaunt.

“Nicholas the son of William held half a knight’s fee in the same village, of the Bishop of Lincoln.

“William de la Launde held one knight’s fee in Oustorp, of Gilbert de Kamvill.”^a

As is the case with many of the smaller villages in this county, little more is known of this place than what is to be met with in the above public Records; we therefore hasten to a description of the parish church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew. It is a fine building, consisting of a nave, north and south aisles, chancel, and south porch, having a flowered arch and a small niche over its point, now filled up, with a lofty tower, surmounted by a beautiful spire, which “with a silent finger points to heaven.” The tower, which contains a clock and four bells, together with a small bell in the east window, is secured with strong and ornamented buttresses at each angle, and is, with the spire, one hundred and seventy-two feet in height. The spire was struck by lightning, and repaired, in the year 1810, at which time a new gilt fane was placed upon it, by the munificence of Sir J. W. Gordon, baronet, impropiator and lord of the manor; to whose characteristic liberality the church is indebted for a Communion table of fossil oak, taken out of his lands in Austhorpe, part of the ancient forest of Deiringwood,—a covering for the same, and also for the pulpit and reading desk, of purple velvet, with handsome fringe and cushions,—and a silver patera. He also repaired the chancel, and dismissed the mortar and bricks from the east or rose window, and filled it with glass.

^a Testa de Nevill, p. 349.

Such attention to the church must, by every friend to antiquity and lover of ecclesiastical architecture, be duly appreciated.

The nave rests on four pointed arches on the north, and on three on the south, having fluted pillars. The font, which is hexagonal, is enriched with different specimens of window tracery in high relief. Many of the old oak stalls remain, erected, according to a carving upon one of them, in the year 1610, but there are also several modern pews, and a neat singing gallery at the west end. The partition screen of the chancel is beautifully ornamented with roses and finials in fret work, and has over it the King's arms and Ten commandments. In the south wall of the chancel, within the communion rails, are three stalls or stone seats, adorned with a bouquet point and finials, and heads in the interstices; likewise a piscini under a smaller arch. In the east wall is a square locker, and in the north wall a pointed one for the pix. On the west side of the above is a large arch, evidently made out of the wall of the old church, with a bouquet and two pillars with finials, now much mutilated, which, probably, contained the tomb of the founder of the new church. At the east end of the north aisle is a enclosed chantry, now belonging to the impropriator, in the east wall of which is a piscini, and over it a window still retaining the remains of two coats of arms in painted glass. This, with a few fragments in the two south windows of the chancel, is all that remains of the numerous specimens existing here in Mr. Hollis's time, and of which he gives the following account:—

Fenestra orientalis chori borealis.

Ermine, 2 barrs G. over all a bend sable.—

Argent, 2 barrs G. in chiefe 3 torteauxes, over all a bend sable.—*Threkingham.*

Or. 2 chevrons & a border G. a label of 5, B.—

Stephanus Capellanus — de Iwarby me fecit.

Fenestra borealis chori.

Effigies viri, genuflexo, super vestum et manu gestans.
Ermine, 2 barrs G. a bend sa.

Fenestra borealis navis.

Effigies viri, gestans, (genuflexo) veste et manibus.
Barry of 6, Or. & B. a bend G.—*Gant*.

Fenestra occidentalis ad sinistram campanilis.

Arg. 2 chevrons G. a labell of 5 points, B.
Barry of 6, Arg. & G. 3 torteauxes in chief, over all a bend B.

Fenestra campanilis.

Or, 2 chevrons G. a labell of 5, B.
G. 2 chevrons Or. a labell of 5, B.

Fenestra australis cancelli.

Arg. 2 barrs G. in chiefe 3 torteauxes, over all a bend sa.
——bis.——*Threkingham*.

Besides the above, he mentions the following monumental inscriptions, &c., as being in existence at the same period.

In choro boreali.

Tumulus marmoreus cum effigie Alexandri Aunsell, militis,
[ut dicitur] qui obiit sine exitu.

Super tumulum hæc insignia, viz.

Ermyne, on a fess G. 3 crosses botony, or.—*Aunsell*.

Super ingressum cancelli.

Pray for y^e welfare of Mrs. Joane Gibson.

Tumuli in cancellis.

Hic jacet Ric'us de Ouningham quondam rectoristius ecclesie,
qui obiit 10 die Aprilis. A'no D'ni 1396. Cujus &c.
Ric'us Typler, rector.

Tumuli in navi.

Hic jacet Will'us Brown, qui obiit 16 die Augusti, A'no D'ni
1464. Cujus &c.,
Hic jacet — Glouer, qui obiit 20 die Februarii, A'no D'ni
1505. Cujus &c.,
Hic jacet G. Broun —
Hic jacet Joh'es Boule, qui obiit 2 die Octobris, Anno D'ni
1505. Cujus &c.

Super crucem in cœmeterio.

Sumptu Rectoris fuit hæc Crux facta Johannis Hauburgh,
moeroris expers sit in omnibus annis.
3 lyons passant. A lyon rampant. 3 lucies hauriants.
A cinquefoyle between 8 crosse crosselets.

Ex. opposito crucifixi.

Virgo Maria inter Divos Petrum et Paulum.

In a retiring arch in the north wall of the chantry, before noticed, is the effigy of a man in mail armour, but mutilated, with his feet resting on a lion couchant. The stone steps, on which the relatives of the deceased kneeled when mass was performed for his soul, still remain, and three shillings and fourpence allowed for the obit annually. This effigy is said to represent Sir Ranulph, Radolphus, or Ralph Rye, the son of Nicholas Rey or Rye of Gosberkirke, Sheriff of Lincolnshire, A. D. 1276, 77, and 78, who died for his country, and was buried in St. Catharine's chapel in the church of St. Peter.

and St. Paul in Gosberton. Ranulph or Ralph his son, in the ninth year of Edward I. (A. D. 1281.), obtained a charter for a market to be held every Monday at his manor in Gosberton. Perhaps he also at the same time procured a charter for a market at Ewerby, and erected the cross, last noticed by Mr. Hollis. The base of this cross still remains, but the shaft and the images, as well as the rood loft, were too offensive to the eyes of the Republicans, in the time of Oliver Cromwell, to be permitted to remain.

This church and vicarage, formerly a parcel of the Priory of Kyme, but now in the Crown, was, according to the Taxation or Valor of Pope Nicholas IV., made about A. D. 1291, an Ecclesiastical Rectory of considerable value, and no vicarage had, at that time, been created or endowed. In the record it is thus noticed,—“*Decanatus de Lafford.—Ecclesia de Iwardby præter pensionem, £24. 13s. 4d.—Pensio Prioris de Kyma in eadem, £2. 0s. 0d.*” In the survey made by parliamentary authority, in the twenty-sixth of Henry VIII., it was then of the yearly value of £6. 10s. 10d.

The church of Ewerby, though doubtless given to the Priory of Kyme long before, was not appropriated to it until the first year of Henry IV., which is evident from the Patent Rolls of that reign, where we find “*Pro Ecclesia de Iwarby approprianda ———.*”

Ewerby, with Austhorpe, now called Ewerby Thorpe, which was the residence of the amiable and unfortunate Mrs. Kyme, an account of whom will be found under the head of “*South Kyme,*” comprises a large tract of land, extending itself to the Sleaford Navigation, but has not increased much in population since the time of Queen Elizabeth, when there were in *Ewerbie* and *Awstropp* seventy-one families, and now there are but seventy-five, with a population of three hundred and fifteen.

FOLKINGHAM.

FOLKINGHAM, a small market town in the hundred of Aveland, is situated on the turnpike road leading from Lincoln to London, about twenty-six miles from the former, and one hundred and six from the latter place.

The earliest mention we find made of this place is in the Domesday Book, which contains the following notice:—
“Land of Gilbert de Gand. Manor. In *Folchingham* Uk had twelve carucates of land to be taxed. Land to as many ploughs. Gilbert has there in the demesne five ploughs, and fourteen villanes, and five sokemen, and nine bordars, with seven ploughs. There is a church, and one mill of ten shillings and eightpence, and one hundred acres of meadow, and eighty acres of coppice wood. Value in King Edward’s time fifty pounds, now forty pounds. Tallaged at fifty pounds.”

The above Gilbert de Gand or Gaunt, was the son of Baldwin, Earl of Flanders, and nephew to the Conqueror’s Queen, Matilda. He accompanied the Conqueror in his expedition against England in 1066, and was rewarded proportionably for his services. At the time of the general survey, he appears to have been possessed of one lordship in Berkshire,—two in Oxfordshire,—three in Yorkshire,—six in Cambridgeshire,—two in Bucks,—one in Hunts,—five in Northamptonshire,—one in Rutlandshire,—one in Leicestershire,—one in Warwickshire,—eighteen in Nottinghamshire,—and one hundred and thirteen

in Lincolnshire, of which Folkingham was one, where he seated himself, that being the head of his barony.^a

This Gilbert was at York in the year 1069, when the city was destroyed by the Danes, being one of the few Normans who escaped their fury. He died in the time of William Rufus, and was buried at Bardney Abbey, in this county, which he had restored, after its destruction by Inguar and Hubba, the Pagan Danes, and was succeeded by

Walter, his son and heir, who, when very aged and near his death, was a commander in that famous battle against the Scots, at Northallerton, (commonly called the battle of the Standard,) where, by his eloquent speech and prudent conduct, the army was so encouraged, that the Scots were utterly defeated and vanquished. This Walter founded the Priory of Bridlington, in Yorkshire, and added to the buildings and revenues of the Abbey of Bardney. He died in the fourth of Stephen, leaving issue Gilbert, Robert, and Geffery, which

Gilbert, in his youth, being with King Stephen in the unfortunate battle of Lincoln, anno 1142, was there taken prisoner along with him, and by Ranulph, Earl of Chester, compelled to marry Rohais, his niece, daughter and heir of William de Romare, Earl of Lincoln, whereby in her right he afterwards had the title of Earl of Lincoln. He founded the Abbey of Rufford in Nottinghamshire, A. D 1148, to which, as well as to several other Religious Houses, he was a great benefactor, and dying in the year 1156, (second of Henry II.) was buried in the Priory of Bridlington, where he had been baptized and

a Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. i. p. 624. "Memorandum, says an ancient manuscript, that the Conqueror was accompanied by one Gilbert de Gant, to whom the said William gave the manor of Folkingham, with its appurtenances and honor thereunto belonging, and they drove out a certain woman named Dunmock," CAMDEN'S BRITANNIA.

brought up from his infancy, leaving issue two daughters; viz. Alice the wife of Simon de St. Lis, Earl of Huntingdon and Northampton, and Gunnora. But, neither of them having any issue, the inheritance reverted to their uncle,

Robert de Gaunt, who, the fourteenth of Henry II., paid £11. 6s. 8d. unto the aid then collected for marriage of the King's daughter; but in the third of Richard I., or beginning of the next ensuing year, he died, leaving issue by his first wife, Alice daughter and heir of William Pagenel, one sole daughter, his heir, who married Robert, son of Robert Fitz Harding, by whom he had issue Maurice de Gaunt, who dying issueless the fourteenth of Edward III., the estates, &c., came to Gilbert de Gaunt, son of the last named Robert, by his second wife, Gunnora, the niece of Hugh de Guornay. This

Gilbert, who was surnamed the Good, answered for sixty-eight knight's fees, a third, and a fifth part, upon the levying of the scutage of Scotland, in the thirteenth year of the reign of King John. Dying A. D. 1242, he was succeeded by

Gilbert, his son and heir, who paying £100. for his relief, had livery of the lands which he held of the King in capite; and the thirty-eighth of Henry III., paid £137. 1s. 4d. for sixty-eight knight's fees, a half, and a sixth part, upon payment of the aid for making the King's eldest son a knight. By an inquisition taken in the latter part of the above reign, it appears that this "Gilbert de Gaunt held in Fukingham twelve carucates of land, except four bovates, which the Prior of Sempringham and Abbot of Bardney held. It was then capital manor barony of itself in the county of Lincoln."^a He died at Folkingham in the year 1274, and was buried in the Priory of Bridlington, leaving issue Gilbert, (for another son, Robert, died in his life time,) and three daughters, viz.

^a Testa de Nevill, p. 321.

Margaret, wife of William de Kerdeston; Nichola, wife of Peter de Mauley; and Julian, who died unmarried.

Gilbert, successor to his father, was commonly called Gilbert the Fifth. He married Lora, sister to Alexander de Baliol; but having no issue, constituted King Edward I. his heir to the lands of his barony; viz. Folkingham, Barton, Heckington, and Edenham, retaining nothing but Swaledale, and his portion of Skendleby. He died, after having enjoyed several honourable posts, in the year 1298, (twenty-sixth of Edward I,) whereupon Roger son of William de Kerdeston, then twenty-four years old, and Julian de Gaunt, sister to the said Gilbert, then forty years of age, were found to be his next heirs.

This manor appears to have remained in the King's hands until the first of Edward II., when Henry de Beaumont, in consideration of the great services done to his father, King Edward I., obtained a grant in fee, of the manors of Folkingham, Edenham, and Barton upon Humber, and of all the knight's fees belonging to Gilbert de Gaunt, which Lora his widow, held in dower. During the reign of Edward III. he had many high posts and offices conferred upon him; and having had summons to Parliament, from the second of Edward II. to the sixth of Edward III., as a Baron, and thence to the fourteenth of the same reign as Earl of Bogan, died in the latter year, leaving

John, his son and heir, who, on his father's death, had livery of his lands, but never used the title of Earl of Bogan, and died soon after, viz. the sixteenth of Edward III., leaving an only son,

Henry, who was born in Brabant the fourteenth of Edward III., but whose legitimacy was ratified in Parliament the twenty-fifth of the same reign; in the thirty-fourth whereof, doing his homage, he had livery of his lands, and also sum-

mons to Parliament, from the thirty-sixth to the forty-second of Edward III., the year after which he died, and left

John, son and heir, then only eight years old; who the sixth of Richard II., making proof of his age, and doing his homage, had livery of his inheritance. He was summoned to Parliament from the sixth to the seventeenth of Richard II., and died, full of honour, the twentieth of the same reign, leaving Henry, his son and heir, sixteen years of age. Which

Henry, the first of Henry IV. was made a knight, by bathing at the coronation of that King; having an allowance of robes for the said ceremony. He died in the first year of Henry V., having had summons to Parliament from the fifth to the fourteenth of Henry IV., and was succeeded by

John, his son and heir, who was only four years old at his father's death, but the ninth of Henry VI. making proof of his age, had livery of the lands of his inheritance. He was in great favor with that King, and, in consideration of his great merits and special services, was advanced to the honour of a Viscount, being the first person ever dignified with that title in England. He procured to himself and William his son, temp. twenty-seventh of Henry VI., a charter of divers privileges for his manor of Folkingham; as return of writs and all precepts, assize of bread and ale, sac, soc, waif, estrays, felon's goods, treasure-trove, felo's de se, escapes, gallows, pillory, wrecks of sea, &c. Having been raised to higher honours than any of his ancestors had before borne, he was not unmindful of the gratitude he owed to that prince, who had so highly favoured him; wherefore, in his cause against the house of York, he bravely adventured his life, and was slain in the battle of Northampton, thirty-eighth of Henry VI., leaving

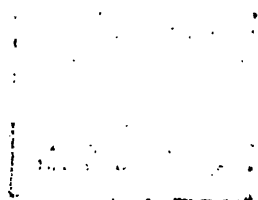
William his son and heir, beforementioned, who adhering to the Lancastrian interest, participated in the hard fate which befel that family; for being taken prisoner at Towton Field,

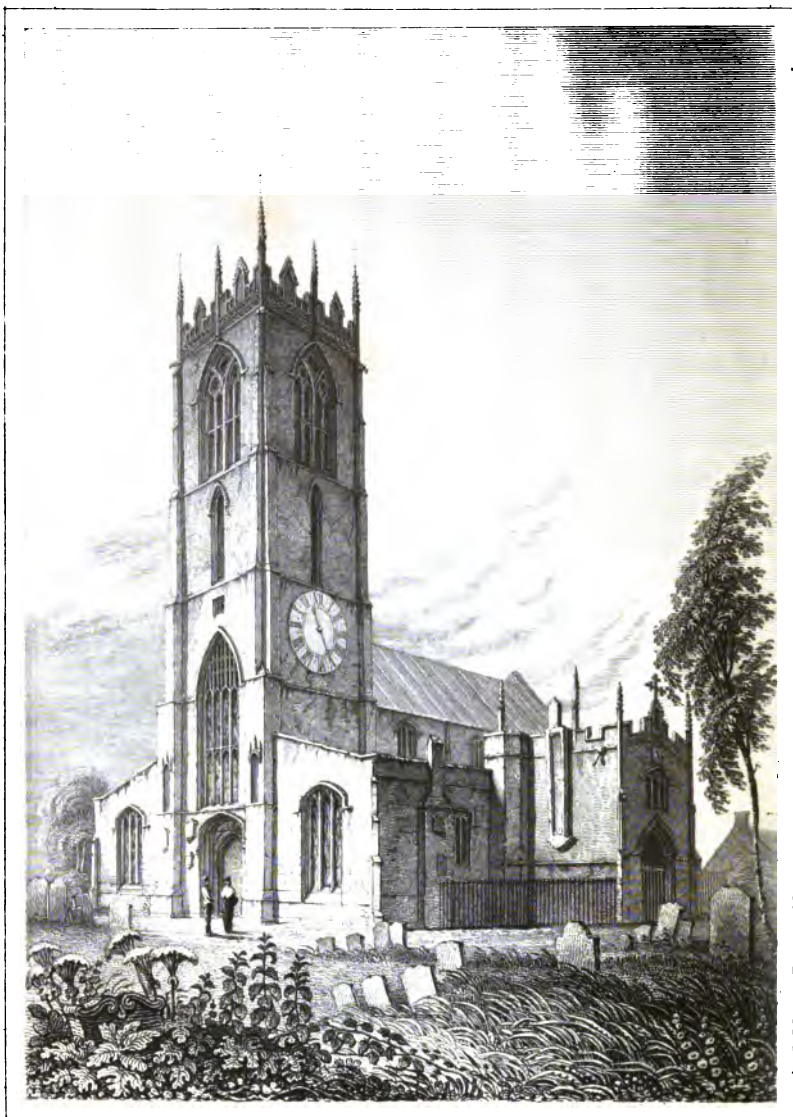
the great leveller of places, as well as of distinctions, has swept into oblivion much which relates to the pristine state of a place, whose claims to the attention of the antiquary, though faded, are not yet annihilated.

It possesses, notwithstanding its contiguity to the fens, every advantage arising from a salubrious air and good water. There are many excellent springs in its immediate vicinity, but that to which the inhabitants chiefly resort is south-west of the town, and commonly known by the name of Pearson's spring. In a meadow on the north side, is a very beautiful spring, called Dunn's well, where there has doubtless been a bath erected at some time or other. South-east, in a meadow occupied by the Rev. Charles Day, is a periodical spring called Swallow pit, which some suppose to have a communication with the Trent, from the well-known fact of its rising only when the waters of that river are most abundant.

In a meadow west of the town, belonging to Mr. John Eastland, are two barrows, or tumuli, on one of which there appears to have been a mill erected at no distant period, several traces of which being distinctly visible.

No reason can be assigned, perhaps, why the first syllable in *Folkingham* should, as in many instances it is, be spelled with an *a*. This is quite a modern innovation, for it is not to be found so spelled in any ancient record. The Domesday account gives it *Folchingeham* and *Fulchingeham*; Leland and Collier write *Fokingham*; Dugdale and Madox, and after them the Rev. Mr. Cox, *Folkingham*. Tradition, however, mentions a circumstance which is said to have given rise to the name of *Falkingham*, as spelt with an *a*,—viz. that the three Chiefs who bore the title of Kings, slain in the famous battle between the English and the Danes, A. D. 869 or 870, (for an account of which see "Threckingham,") are supposed to have fallen in this parish, from which incident it was afterwards called *Fall-king-ham*.





Drawn & Engraved by R.L. Wright.

FOLKINGHAM CHURCH.

Published by J. Greasy, Stamford, 1825.

The public buildings in Folkingham are, the Church, the Old or House of Correction, and an excellent Inn. The latter Sessions for the south division of Kesteven, are held annually here and at Boston: the Sessions House forms the wing of the Greyhound Inn. There is likewise a Free School, though not very well endowed.

THE CHURCH.

It was anciently appropriated to the Priory of Sempringham, is dedicated to St. Andrew, and consists of a tower, spire, containing five bells and a town clock, a nave, resting on four octagonal pillars, two aisles, and a chancel, with a neat porch on the south side. It is a large and handsome building, mostly of Perpendicular character; the chancel is earlier, with some good Decorated windows. The tower is the principal feature; it has eight pinnacles and a rich battlement: the battlement is double, with two architraves under one drip-eave, an arrangement not uncommon in towers of the same date in this district. The interior of the church is neat, and principally seated with pews, but a few oak stalls yet remain, and also a neat singing gallery at the west end of the church. The roof is of oak, very handsomely carved. The font is of stone, of a basin, neatly ornamented, and stands on a tall stem. A very elegant screen of gothic fret-work separates the nave from the chancel, in the south wall of which are two large windows and a piscina, of plain workmanship. On the north side of the two stalls nearest the chancel, a table, which is of some distant period, been cut away for the purpose of introducing a desk into the chancel.

From Hollis's Notes we gather that there are twelve windows in painted glass, others over the south door, which remain, and two monumental inscriptions, with the assistance, of which he gives the following account:

The public buildings in Folkingham are, the Church, the Castle, or House of Correction, and an excellent Inn. The Quarter Sessions for the south division of Kesteven, are held alternately here and at Bourn: the Sessions House forms the left wing of the Greyhound Inn. There is likewise a Free School, though not very well endowed.

THE CHURCH,

which was anciently impropriated to the Priory of Sempringham, is dedicated to St. Andrew, and consists of a tower steeple, containing five bells and a town clock, a nave, resting on four octagonal pillars, two aisles, and a chancel, with a neat porch on the south side. It is a large and handsome building, mostly of Perpendicular character; the chancel is earlier, with some good Decorated windows. The tower is the principal feature; it has eight pinnacles and a rich battlement: the belfry window is double, with two architraves under one dripstone, an arrangement not uncommon in towers of the same date in this district. The interior of the church is neat, and principally seated with pews, but a few oak stalls yet remain: there is also a neat singing gallery at the west end of the nave. The pulpit is of oak, very handsomely carved. The font is round like a basin, neatly ornamented, and stands on two steps. A most elegant screen of gothic fret-work separates the nave from the chancel, in the south wall of which are three stone stalls and a piscini, of plain workmanship; but the lower parts of the two stalls nearest the communion table have, at some distant period, been cut away for the purpose of introducing a door into the chancel.

From Hollis's Notes we gather, that numerous armorial bearings in painted glass, others over the south door, which still remain, and two monumental inscriptions, were then in existence, of which he gives the following account:—

EE

Fenestra campanilis.

B. semy of floures de lize, a lyon rampant, or. debrused with
a bend gabony, arg. & G.—*Beaumont.*

B. 3 cinquefoiles pierced, or.—*Bardolphe.*

Quarterly. { Beaumont with the bend gobony.
 { B. 3 garbes, or.

Clinton & Say, quartz within the garter.—*Edward, E. of Linc.*

Fenestra borealis navis, & in cancello.

Beaumont.

Fenestra orientis navis.

Quarterly. { Iherusalem.
 { B. semy of floures de lize, a lyon rampant or.
 —*Beaumont.*

Beaumont with a bend gobony, arg. & G. bis.—*Beaumont.*

Effigies Joh'is de la Novel Kastel.

In porticu hinc inde ostii.

3 garbes. Semy of floures de lize, a lyon rampant.

Effigies religiosi juxta fontem.

Hic jacet Emot Gilson, obiit — die — A'no D'ni —.

Hic jacet Thomas Beverley.^a

There are now several mural tablets and inscriptions on the floor, but of recent date.

^a Harl. MSS., No. 6829, p. 297.

The living is a Rectory, united to the Vicarage of Laughton. Patron, Sir Gilbert Heathcote, baronet. Rector, the Rev. T. H. Rawnsley.

THE CASTLE, OR HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

There is scarcely a vestige left of the ancient Castle, which once stood here, excepting the inner moat, and some faint traces of the outer one. This castle stood at the east end of the town, where the House of Correction is now situated. Tradition says, it was knocked down by Oliver Cromwell, but from its being in a ruinous state in Leland's time, who flourished in the reign of Henry VIII., it is not likely to have been standing in Cromwell's days; but even admitting it was so, it is still less likely that he should have demolished it. An antique looking edifice, now occupied by Mr. Eastland, is supposed to have been built from the ruins of the castle, as a residence for one of the Clinton family. Leland says, "From Grimesthorpe to Sempringham V miles, and a mile thens somewhat inwarde, on the lifte hand, is the Castelle of Fokingham; sumtime the Lord Bardolphe's, syns the Lord Bellemonte's, now longīng to the Duke of Norfolk: it hath bene a goodly house, but now it fallith onto ruine, and it stondith even about the egge of the fennes."^a

The outer moat by which the castle was surrounded, inclosed an area of nearly ten acres. Besides numerous foundations which have at different times been dug up, there was discovered, in the year 1813, a stone gutter, at the depth of twelve feet from the surface of the ground; it was formed of fine large stone,—was about three feet square,—and is supposed to have carried the filth, &c., from the castle to the moat on the north side of it. Several brass and copper coins have

^a Leland's Itinerary, vol. i. p. 27.

also been found, but so much defaced by time, as to render it impossible to make any thing out respecting them.

The House of Correction, which is for the parts of Kesteven, stands, as was before observed, upon the site of the Castle, and was erected in the year 1808. Considerable additions have lately been made to it, for the purpose of clas-
sing the prisoners more regularly than could heretofore be done. It is now calculated to hold twice the number it formerly did: the chapel is extremely neat, and very appropriate, being so contrived, that the prisoners in each pew or seat, can command a full and sufficient view of the minister, but are at the same time completely excluded from seeing any of their fellow prisoners, who may occupy the others. Among the latest improvements in the prison, may be reckoned the erection of a tread-wheel. This piece of machinery is admirably calculated to effect its intended purpose, viz. that of affording both labour and punishment to the prisoners at the same time; the former being obtained by the vexatious and fatiguing exercise on the wheel, and the latter by a knowledge that all their vexatious labour is entirely in vain, as the machine itself does not perform any kind of work, either for the use of the prison or otherwise.

The officers of the prison are, a chaplain, a governor, and a turnkey. The inner fosse which surrounded the ancient castle, is now the boundary of the prison. On the space between this and the outer fosse, the principal cattle fairs are held.

THE INN,

which stands at the top of the town, is a handsome brick edifice, and commands a very extensive view towards the south. Its present possessor is Mr. Baily, well known and deservedly respected for the attention paid to travellers.

THE FREE SCHOOL.

This school, though not liberally endowed, is free for all boys whose parents receive parochial aid. It was founded A. D. 1714, by the Rev. Richard Brocklesby, who gave a moiety of the rents, issues, and profits, of certain lands in the parish of Pidley, in the county of Huntingdon, to be yearly and for ever paid to a fit and proper person, to be nominated by his trustees, to teach the poor boys of Folkingham their Catechism, and to read the Holy Bible. This charitable donor left also, by the same will, a house and premises in Stamford, and directed that one half of the rents, issues, and profits, arising therefrom, should yearly, and for ever, be applied towards clothing the poor boys that go to his school at Folkingham.

In the year 1716, Peter Richier, M. D., of the bail of Lincoln, and Mary his wife, gave, by deed, a rent charge of ten pounds, to certain trustees therein named, to be yearly and for ever paid out of a messuage or tenement and certain lands, lying in Pointon, and lately belonging to Mrs. Saunderson of Spalding, to the master of the Free School of Folkingham, for the time being, as an augmentation of his salary.

The school is at present conducted by Mr. C. E. Welbourne, who was elected to the same in the year 1810, on the resignation of the late Mr. Anthony Newton, who had previously held the mastership for thirty-five years. It was formerly kept in the church, but the present master has erected, at his own expense, in a retired and airy part of the town, a spacious school-room, together with a commodious and handsome dwelling house, admirably adapted for the reception of boarders.

Besides the aforementioned charities to the Free School, Thomas Arpe, A. D. 1657, gave, by deed, fifty pounds, and Lot Male twenty pounds, to the poor of Folkingham, which sums were subsequently laid out in the purchase of fourteen acres of land for their use.

Folkingham has seven annual fairs, viz. on Ash-Wednesday, Palm-Monday, May the twelfth, June the nineteenth, July the third, the Thursday after old Michaelmas, and November the twenty-second. The market is held on Thursday.

The parish contains three thousand acres, chiefly of a clayey soil, liable to tithes, and has much increased in population of late years, for we find that in the year 1801, there were five hundred and thirty-one persons, and twenty years after, the population amounted to seven hundred and fifty-nine. In the time of Queen Elizabeth there were only fifty families.

About half a mile to the south of Folkingham, is a hamlet belonging to it, called

LAUGHTON.

It appears from Testa de Nevill, that "Adam de Lotton held half a knight's fee in Lotton and Aslakeby, of Hugh de Ringsdon, and Hugh of Baldwin Wake, and Baldwin of the King in capite."^a

There was formerly a church in this place, but it has been long down, and the living, which was a Vicarage, consolidated with the Rectory of Folkingham. It stood in a hollow, west of the turnpike road, and near a farm-house belonging to Mrs. Douglas, who is lady of the manor of West Laughton. Mrs. Dale is lady of the manor of East Laughton, and Sir Gilbert Heathcote is a proprietor.

By the return in Elizabeth's reign, it appears there were at that time seventeen families residing here, and now there are only eleven.

^a Testa de Nevill, p. 321.

HAYDOR.

It is not possible to conceive any place more secluded than this village, nor shall we easily meet with a parish church, and a vicarage house, relatively situated to better advantage: the former standing on an eminence, with its cemetery gently sloping towards the south, is an object of rare picturesque beauty to the latter, which is likewise seated on an opposite eminence, with its glebe, which is laid out with much taste, gradually inclining towards the church yard, being separated therefrom by only a narrow winding village road, and presenting an interesting view from the former.

We cannot attempt to suggest whence Haydor took its name. The *Heidure* of Domesday, *Haydore* of Testa de Nevill, and *Hayder* of Leland, seem alike equally removed from the Saxon *Hay*, an enclosed place or park, and the English *Heath*; though either word might, perhaps, with some show of probability, be applicable to the ancient appearance of Haydor; the *heath*, as referring to its being placed at the extremity of a vast tract of country, which Leland says was for "six miles all champaine ground toward Sleford;" or to its great proportion of wood land, which would give it the appearance of the *hay* or enclosed park land. Its locality is something more than five miles south-west of Sleasford, and eight east of Grantham, and in the wapentake of Winnibriggs and Threoo.

That popular and authentic record which was given in by Commissioners in the Conqueror's time, acquaints us that "Colsuain had free soke in *Heidure*. One sokeman and six

Richard II., viz. the twenty-ninth and thirtieth of Henry I., we find a Hugo de Bussey was Sheriff of this county; and in the thirty-fifth of the same reign, that a John de Bussey held of the King two knight's fees in capite, as of the bareny of Gaunt. Again, a William Bussey was Sheriff of Lincolnshire the forty-seventh of Edward III., and also a John Bussey de Hather, the seventh, ninth, and fourteenth of Richard II. This John Bussey was one of the six Commoners, who, with twelve Lords, were, on the dissolution of parliament, A. D. 1398, elected as a committee, and invested with the whole power, both of Lords and Commons: but in the general insurrection in the month of August, in the following year, occasioned by the return of the Duke of Lancaster to England, to recover the Dutchy of Lancaster, he, with others of Richard's ministers, threw himself into Bristol for security, and, on the surrender of that place to the Duke, was, together with some more of the ringleaders, without even a trial, led to immediate execution.

The house in which this family formerly resided, was situated to the north of the church, and the court-yard immediately adjoining it; for an embattled gateway, with the arms of Bussey (Argent, 3 bars sable) on each side, formed part of the church-yard wall on the north. This house was standing so lately as the year 1823, when it was taken down, and the materials used in erecting a handsome farm-house, at a very short distance from the site of the ancient mansion, to the west of the church-yard. Several curiously carved stones have been preserved by being built up in the garden wall; and an exceedingly fine statue of a female, nearly five feet high, playing on some instrument,—but of what kind, or whom the statue was meant to represent, we could form no judgment,—stands in a recess over the principal entrance door. The embattled gateway has been also taken down, and rebuilt after its

original form, in the western boundary of the church-yard, to admit the family from their garden to the church. Our taste, we confess, would have induced us to have left this gateway standing in its old situation, for the purpose of pointing out the path which formerly led to the dwelling of a *Bussey*.

The following notes relative to the ancient family of *Bussey*, transcribed from a vellum book of devotions, formerly belonging to some of that family, and now in the possession of Mr. Edward James Willson of Lincoln, may not improperly find a place here.^a

30. Julii. Obitus Joh'is Bussy, militis, qui obiit apud Bristowe A'no D'ni m,ccc,lxxxix.

21. Octob. Hic natus est Johannes filius et heres domini Johannis Bushi, anno domini m,cccc,22.^b

Hic natus est Hugo filius et heres Joh'is Bussy A'o D'ni m,cccc,liii.

21. Jan. Obitus Domine Katerine Bussy, que fuit uxor Johannis Bussey, qui quidem Joh'es fuit heres D'ni Joh'is Bussy, qui obiit apud Byrstowe in anno regni Richardi secundi xii., &c. Katerine obiit in A'no D'ni m,cccc,lvi, et in ——— regni Edwardi iiii.

4. Mar. Obitus Joh'is Bussy, militis, qui obiit Hogham A'o D'ni m,cccc,lviii. Iste Johannes fuit filius et heres Joh'is Bussy, qui obiit apud Bristowe pro Ricardo Secundo, in anno regni sui xii.

28. Jan. Obitus Edmandi Perpont^c qui obiit in die sancte

^a These Notes are written in the margins of those leaves which contain the annual calendar, at the beginning of the volume; making up a family-register.

^b This entry is written in a most exact manner, apparently by the person who wrote the book itself. The last two figures in the date are Arabic numerals, the earliest in this register.

^c This probably was some relative of the *Bussey* family.

- Agnetis supradicto, A'o D'ni m,cccc,lxxxv. A'o regni Henrici septimi primo.
26. Jan. Obitus Johannis Bussy filii iij. Tho. Bussey, militis, de Hogham, et dictus Johannes obiit apud Scotter, A'o D'ni m,cccc,lxxxvii, et regni Henrici septimi, tercio. Cujus anime propicietur deus, amen.
16. Feb. Obitus Magistri Willi. Bussy, filii Joh'is Bussy, militis, ac rectoris de Hogham, and Winfield in com. Derbii, A'o D'ni m,cccc, nonagesimo iij.
5. Aug. Obitus D'ne Eliz. Bussy uxoris Johannis Bussey, militis, & filie Laurencii Barkeley. Anno D'ni m,cccc, nonagesimo quarto. Cujus anime propicietur deus, amen.
- Jun. 6. Isto die natus est Edwardus Bussy filius Edmundi Bussi, A'o m,d,xi, & A'o H. viij. tercio.
24. Decemb. Edwardus Bussy filius Edwardi Bussy, natus fuit apud Haidor vicesimo quarto die Decembris, Anno D'ni 1552.
- Octob. Isto die nata erat Elizabetha Bussy filia Johannis Bussy, apud Wythecoke in A'o D'ni 1558.
- Primo die Januarii natus fuit Johannes Bussy filius Johannis Bussy apud Haidor, anno domini 1559.
2. Feb. Isto die obiit Henricus St. Poolle apud Wythecoke, in A'o D'ni 1559.
15. Mar. Isto die natus fuit Edmundus Bussy filius Johannis Bussy apud Haydor, in A'o D'ni 1562.
- Anna Bussy filia Johannis Bussy, nata fuit apud Haidor vicesimo die Septembris, anno domini 1563.
- Bridget Bussey filia Johannis Bussy, nata fuit apud Haidor octavo die Januarii, anno domini 1565, eodemque die baptisata fuit Jana Bussy filia ipsius Johannis, A'no D'ni 1576 or 1577. quere.
- Francis Bussy filius Johannis Bussy, natus fuit apud Haidor vicesimo die Aprilis, anno domini 1567.

Christopher Bussy filius Johannis Bussy, natus fuit apud Haidor undecimo die Aprilis, anno domini 1568.

Mary Bussy filia Johannis Bussy, nata fuit apud Haidor secundo die Aprilis, anno domini 1570.

Isto die (27. Novemb.) obiit Edmundus Bussy, apud Willow, filius Edwardi Bussy, anno domini 1570.

Charles Bussy filius Johannis Bussy, natus fuit apud Haidor undecimo die Maii, anno domini 1572.

Brudenell Bussy filius Johannis Bussey, obiit apud Haidor decimo die Maii, anno domini 1578.

Isto, quarto viz., die Octobris an'o dom. 1580,, baptizatus fuit Andrew Bussy filius Johannis.

15. die Aprilis, A'o regni Elizabethhe 28, 1586, natus fuit Rawley Bussy filius Johannis Bussey, qui fuit filius Joh'is Bussey de Hather, armigeri.

Nupta fuit [Elizabeth Bussy, born 1558] Johanni Babington de Rampton in com. Nottingha', arm. per quem habuit nullum exitum, visi unicum filium vocatum Johannem, natum Hador mense Januarii, 1587, A'o regni Elizabethhe regine, &c., vicessimo nono.

Johannes Babington obiit apud Rampton anno domini 1588, mense Aprilis.

Edwardus Bussy filius Edmundi Bussy, natus fuit apud Ramp-ton, in com. Nott'. quarto die Novembris, A'o D'ni 1590.

Milo Bussy filius E'di natus fuit apud Haydor xix die Augusti, anno domini 1592.

Elizabetha Bussey filia Edmundi Bussy, nata fuit apud Haydor xi Augusti, 1593.

Elizabeth Bussy filia Edmundi Bussy, nata fuit apud Haidor 14. die Julii, A'o D'ni 1594.

Francisca Bussey filia Edmundi Bussy, nata fuit apud Haidor 29. die Aprilis, A'o Regni Regine Elizabethhe 30. A'o D'ni 1596.

- 、 Jane Bussy filia Edmundi Bussy, nata fuit apud Haidor 12. Julii, 1597.

Edmundus Bussy filius Francisci, natus fuit apud Rampton tercio die Augusti, anno d'ni 1597.

Elizab. Bussye filia Milonis Bussye, nata fuit apud Haidor vicessimo die martii, anno domini 1609.

The prebendal vicarial church of Haydor, which is dedicated to St. Michael, is an edifice comprehending many beauties:—a chaste tower and spire, a lofty nave, two side aisles, a chancel, and chantry chapel, convey in a few words an idea of this building, which consists of some considerable portions of the Early, Decorated, and Perpendicular English styles, with some very good details. A beautiful fragment of an arch over the entrance to the tower stairs, is the oldest part of the work. The nave is supported by six slender octagonal pillars, terminating in pointed arches, over which rise six pointed arched windows on each side. The roof is of oak, with the beams elegantly carved. There are some good Decorated windows with beautiful tracery, in which still remains a great quantity of elegant stained glass, consisting of armorial bearings, figures, and labels or mottos, in many instances quite perfect. The following description, by Mr. Hollis, will convey some idea of the above. Those mentioned as being in a window of the chancel, are gone.

Fenestra borealis chori.

B. a bend, or, a labell of 3 points G. & arg.—*Scrope*

B. a bend, or. a lab. of 3 points ermyn,—bis.—*Scrope.*

Henry le Scrope, Chevaler.

Altera fen. boreali.

Orate pro anima Galfri le Scrop, Prebendarii hujus ecclesie et pro a'ia.

Beatricis Leotrell sonoris ejus.

Hic Galfrides fuit canonicus ecclesia hie Marie Linc. a'no
6^o Rich. II.

Arg. 6 annulets G. a bend B.—*Plessy*.

Or. 2 barrs G. in chief 3 torteaux.—*Wake*.

Arg. 3 barrs sable, a crescent difference.—*Edm. Bussy*.

Arg. 3 barrs sa.—bis.—*Bussy*

In cancello.

G. 3 crownes in pale, or.

In insula boreali.

Arg. a chevron between 3 crosses botony sa, a border sa.
bezanty.—*Fitzwilliam*.^a

In this last mentioned window are also several figures, legends, &c., yet remaining, which appear to have escaped the notice of Mr. Hollis. He tells us, however, of the following monumental inscription:—

Edwardus Beetson de Culverthorp, filius Thome Beetson de
Swarby, obiit 6^o die Febr. 1592.^b

We can no otherwise account for the escape from the fury of Puritanic zeal, of the above described specimens of stained glass, than by supposing that the family of the Newtons had them removed to a place of concealment, and that when the storm was over, some branch of the same family restored them to their original station.

The font, which is octagonal, is of Decorated character, with rich and varied panelling. The pulpit is of oak, neatly carved, and the seats, with the exception of two or three, are all uninclosed. There appears to have been a rood-loft in front of the screen, which, though modern, is very handsome, and part of the stairs leading to it are yet remaining.

^a Harl. MSS., No. 6929, p. 292. ^b *Ibid*

The chancel is very simply fitted up with oak within the altar rails. A door on the north side leads into the chantry chapel, which is now converted into a private cemetery for the family of Newton. In the north wall is a fine gothic arch, designed, it is presumed, for the effigy of some one whose mortal remains were committed to the vault beneath, but of which neither stone nor figure remains. On the floor are two brass plates commemorating Henry Pight, who died in the year 1675, and Isaac Carter, who died A. D. 1687, both of whom were Prebendaries and Rectors (as it is said) of this church. In this chancel are also several pieces of ancient armour, with numerous armorial bearings, and banners, which, owing to the destroying hand of Time, are nearly mouldered away. Eight flag staves, suspended from the roof and resting on iron brackets, are still to be seen, but with scarcely a tattered remnant of the colours which once they bore, as so many proofs of deeds of valour. Two steel helmets, with two pair of gauntlets, a small dress sword, and a pair of gilt spurs, are in good preservation. The chancel was new roofed in the year 1723.

In our notice of the burial place of the Newton family, who were long inhabitants of Culverthorpe Hall, we do not attempt to do justice to either the elegance of the monuments, or the exact order and cleanliness observed therein; nor will our limits allow us to give much more than the names of the several branches of that family, who have been here interred. An exceedingly fine monument of pure white statuary marble, records the virtues of Abigail, wife of John Newton, esquire, of Thorpe, who died A. D. 1686, aged 26 years. A second monument, equally rich in its material and design, is to the memory of Sir John Newton, baronet, obit 1734, *Æ.* 83. His first wife was the Abigail before noticed. A third, by no means inferior to the two preceding, is for Lady Susanna Newton, second wife of the above Sir John,

who died in the year 1737, aged 86. This monument was erected by her daughter, conformable to the directions given in her will. A fourth, which surpasses in costliness and elegance those that have been noticed, bears the name of Sir Michael Newton, baronet, Knight of the most honourable order of the Bath, &c., obijt 1743. But after all, the monument which we most admired, and that for the feeling and affectionate inscription thereon, was a simple mural tablet for Margaret, Countess of Coningsby, widow of the above Sir Michael Newton, who died A. D. 1761, aged 52.

The general exterior appearance of this church is very interesting, the stone being excellent, and kept in good order. Over the south door, within the porch, is a fine flowery niche, but destitute of its statue; and over the entrance to the porch these arms;—A chevron between 3 cinquefoils.

The Vicarage of Haydor with Kelby is a Peculiar, and not under the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon, but the visitation is held by the Prebendary of Haydor cum Walton. The Rev. Michael Thorold is the present Vicar, and the patronage of the living is vested in Mrs. Houblon Newton.

There are in this parish, taken without its hamlets, two thousand seven hundred and fifty acres of tolerably good land, adapted both for tillage and grazing. Mrs. Houblon Newton, a descendant of the family abovementioned, who were owners of this manor prior to the twelfth year of Charles II., is possessed of nearly the whole lordship, with its manorial rights. The population has considerably increased within the last twenty years, which is doubtless owing to the very improved mode of cultivation now pursued. In the year 1801 the population was one hundred and ninety-nine, and in 1821 it amounted to three hundred and thirty-seven.



CULVERTHORPE.

CULVERTHORPE is a hamlet in the parish of Haydor, and situated about a mile east of that village.

Drogo de Beurere appears to have owned the greater part of this place when the Domesday survey was taken, for we find in that Record,—“Land of Drogo de Beurere. In *Cudetorp* six carucates of land to be taxed. Land to six ploughs. Walter, a vassal of Drogo's, has there two ploughs, and twelve sokemen, and six bordars, with three ploughs. Value in King Edward's time ten pounds, now six pounds. Ubric, another of his vassals, has there five sokemen with half a plough. Value in King Edward's time twenty shillings, now ten shillings.”—“Land of Robert de Statford. In *Cudetorp* Robert has two sokemen, with two acres and three perches of land.”

Testa de Nevill mentions Gilbert de Gaunt, Wido de Creon, Robert de Hasceby, and Robert de Swarby, as holding parts of knight's fees in this place in the time of Henry III.

This is all that remains on record respecting this hamlet, till the twelfth year of the reign of Charles II., at which time

we find the manors of Haydor and Culverthorpe were in the possession of John Newton, esquire, who was advanced to the dignity of a baronet A. D. 1661, and the year previous was one of the nobility whom Charles II. intended to have made Knights of the Royal Oak, when his estate was valued at £3000. per annum. He died in the year 1699, having been thrice Burgess of Grantham, and was buried in Bitton church, Gloucestershire, where, in a neat chapel at the lower end of the north aisle, is a monument of black and white marble to his memory.

The estates then came to Sir John Newton, son of the above, and on his death to his son, Sir Michael Newton, who was made a Knight of the Bath by King George I., A. D. 1725, and became possessed of a large estate by the death of his uncle, Sir Michael Warton. He was twice Member of Parliament for Grantham, but dying without issue in the year 1743, the inheritance reverted to his sister, Susanna the wife of William Eyre Archer, esquire, Knight of the Shire for Berks. It next descended to their son, Michael, who took the name of Newton by Act of Parliament, but dying without issue, it came to his sisters, and from them to the present possessor, Mrs. Houblon Newton.

The vignette at the head of this article, gives a correct representation of the south front of that house so long the habitation of the Newtons. It is a fine mansion; built of an excellent stone, and carries with it the appearance of the seat of a family of some consequence; but the general comfort and convenience of the interior, appeared to us to have been sacrificed for an entrance hall, or vestibule, and a dress drawing room, both of which are very handsome; and that the size, situation, and height of the family apartments, some of which are hung with tapestry, were but a minor consideration. In the great drawing room are several portraits of various mem-

bers of the above family, and a large and curious painting representing the same family (for we understand the figures are all portraits), the dress of the ladies varying but a shade from that of the "lords of the creation," attended by hounds, huntsmen, and a ponderous family coach, drawn by six horses, assembled on the lawn apparently with the intention of proceeding to the chase. The ceiling and walls of the principal staircase were formerly painted with figures, &c., from the heathen mythology, but those on the walls were completely destroyed, in the time of the last occupant, by painting the whole of them of a plain colour. Extensive walled gardens, with a large quantity of fine old timber, and a beautiful lake covering about fourteen acres, give a decided character of respectability to this house. The last descendant of the Newtons who resided here was Michael Newton, esquire, who died in the year 1803, since which period it has, with the exception of a year or two, been untenanted.

Tradition tells us of a chapel formerly in this hamlet, and that it was dedicated to St. Bartholomew, but nothing further is known of its existence, there being no vestiges of it remaining. Hollis in his notes, has indeed, under the head "Calverthorpe," this bearing,—“Or. a crosse patonce;” but it is not easy to decide to what he alluded, whether to a window or monument; or, again, whether the same was in a chapel or somewhere else. There is now a modern private chapel, about two hundred yards east of the hall, which was used during the residence of the Newtons at Culverthorpe, but on the death of Michael Newton, esquire, divine service in it was discontinued.

This hamlet contains only eleven families, with a population of sixty-one.

HECKINGTON.

THE situation of the village of Heckington is highly advantageous, being placed on a considerable and a commanding eminence, having a dry gravelly soil, and lying in the direct line of the turnpike road between Sleaford and Boston, distant five miles from the former, and thirteen from the latter town.

Whether we consider this place with respect to its extent in acres, or richness of soil,—or are led to record its beautiful church, so richly adorned with almost matchless architectural decorations,—or notice its numerous and substantial dwellings and abundant population,—it will appear, that Heckington has the pre-eminence of every village described in this work.

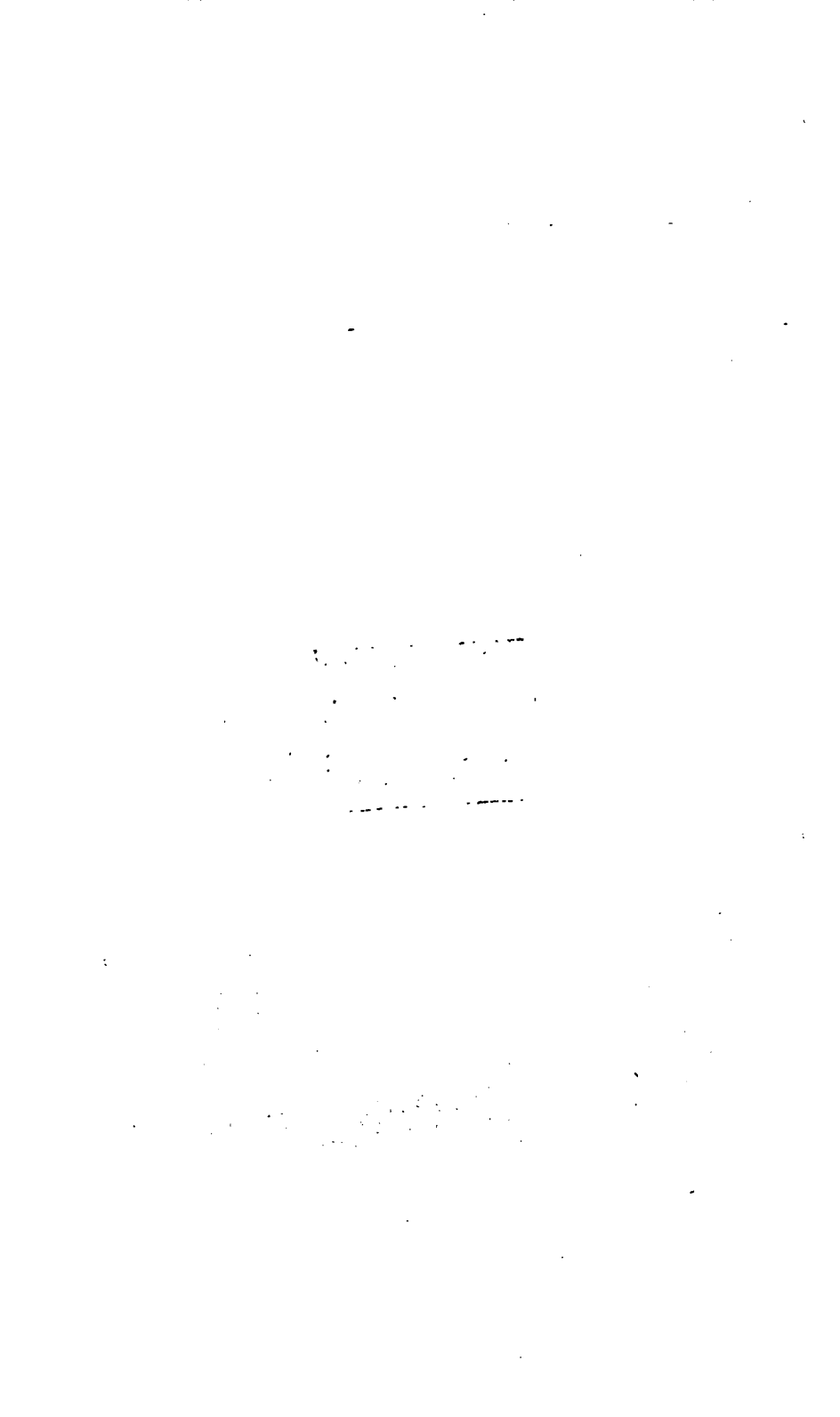
It is generally agreed that no greater difficulty is experienced by a topographical writer, than that of giving the original or radical word, from which many of our towns and villages have taken their names: and no wonder, when we reflect how many generations, nay even ages, have intervened, and consider the changes that have succeeded, both in the pronunciation and orthography of names. But since the great Dr. Stukeley hazarded some strange etymological conceptions, allow us, in some measure, to tread in his steps. May not then *Eschintune*, as this village was called in the Conqueror's reign, have owed its origin to the Saxon *Acse*, Danish *Aske*, or why not to the Dutch *Esch*, all signifying an ash; and the Saxon *in-tun* or *tune* a town; that is, a place abounding with, or suited for the growth of, the ash.

The following extracts from Domesday, though somewhat lengthened, we were unwilling to contract.

for mercy, he reminded his sovereign that his royal father stood sponsor for him at his baptism, and also that his (Lord Cobham's) father had suffered imprisonment for James's mother. This plea seems to have prevailed. Cobham appears to have been a man of no decision of character, and to have been rather led into evil through the machinations of others, than from his own deliberate choice. His steward *Mellows*, who was admitted too much into his master's confidence, ungratefully turned it to his disadvantage, and became his accuser and betrayer.

William, the son of the above Lord Cobham's brother, whose life had been forfeited, becoming heir to his uncle, was by royal favour restored in blood, but yet not to enjoy the title of Lord Cobham. From this William the estates, &c., came to his son, Sir John Brooke, knight, who being so distinguished for his loyalty to the unfortunate Charles I. was, by the King's letters patent, bearing date at Oxford, January 3, 1644, called to the honour and dignity of Lord Cobham, but dying childless the title failed with him. It was this John Brooke, Lord Cobham, of whom tradition relates, that, following up, perhaps too tenaciously, the advantages which his proprietorship of this manor gave him over a vast tract of unclosed land, he so over-stocked the common, as nearly to exclude all other land owners in the parish, and almost compelled them to surrender to him six hundred acres of land, at the eastern extremity of the fen, in lieu of his common rights.

In a mansion, formerly standing south of the village, which judging from appearances, must have been a residence of commanding aspect, lived the above Lord Cobham, whose widow was the last occupier there. It is not correctly ascertained whether or not this Lady Cobham died here, neither can it with certainty be said when the hall was taken down; but from a monumental inscription in Surfleet church, where





Drawn & Engraved by R.L.Wright.

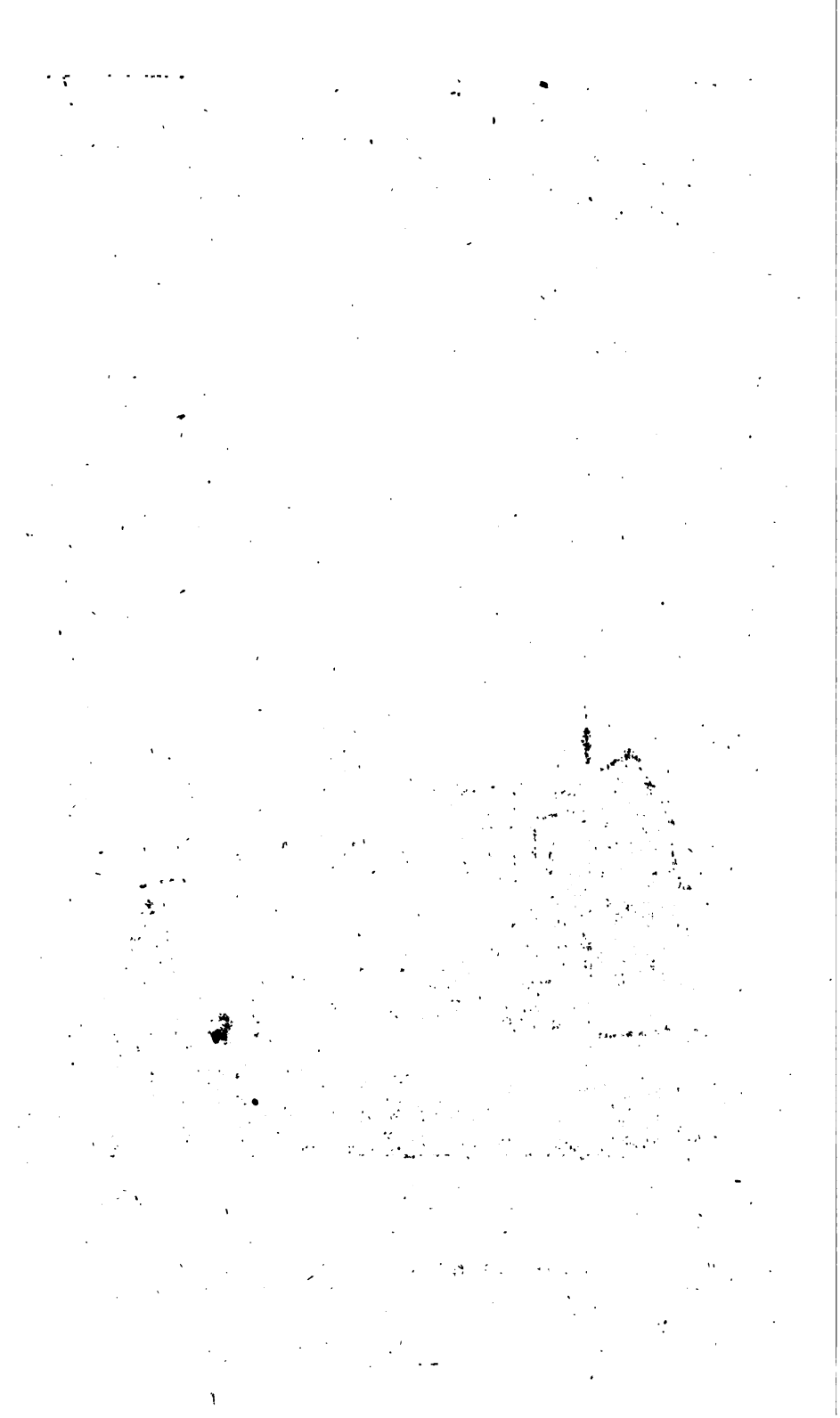
HECKINGTON CHURCH.

Published by J. Creasey, Stamford. 1825.

Ladyship's remains were deposited, it is not improbable
 event occurred soon after the year 1676. The situation
 of the stables, a little south of what is now known as the fish-
 is well defined; indeed, some of the present inhabitants
 informed us that their fathers could very well remember
 existence of these buildings, but could not point out
 of any remains of the hall. It is also stated that
 of Lady Colborne, the pictures and furniture in the
 were removed to the house in the parish of Finsbury,
 the proprietor of the place, Sir Peter Colborne,
 of his wife, and were buried in the manner of
 of the tomb, and their to the notice of the public. It is not
 able to conclude that the situation of Lady Colborne's
 was selected with a view to its security, for in a field
 is a circular mound called "the old immemorial
 "Matts hill;" the object of such a being for the exer-
 cise of women, and their consequent and almost invariable
 of hard by some of the. This hill was partly levelled
 in 1815, and the fragments of human bones and
 of several urns, together with several spear heads, and
 bones long, having been found in the soil, which was
 covered. We could not find any other remains of
 antiquity. Several of the fragments of human bones
 of the paltare, and a few of the fragments of the bones of
 of the have, within the reach of the eye, and subject to
 the consequence of the of the of the in a
 of the instead a short distance of the of the

The City of M.

Sharon says the foundations of the church at Bly
were laid in the year 1161, and the church building
was completed in 1164; the tower was built 1321, 98, 7d;



her ladyship's remains were deposited, it is not improbable this event occurred soon after the year 1676. The situation of the stables, a little south of what is now known as the fish-pond, is well defined; indeed, some of the present inhabitants have informed us that their fathers could very well remember the existence of these buildings, but had no recollection whatever of any remains of the hall. It is said that, on the death of Lady Cobham, the pictures and furniture in this mansion were removed to Cressy hall, in the parish of Gosberton, the proprietor of which place, Sir Peter Frazier, was, in right of his wife, at that time lord of the manor of Heckington, and heir to the estates there also. It is but reasonable to conclude that the situation of Lord Cobham's house was selected with a view to its security, for in a field adjacent is a circular mound, called from time immemorial the "Butts hill;" the design of such hills being for the exercise of bowmen, and their consequent and almost invariable position hard by some castle. This hill was partly levelled in the year 1815, and from the fragments of human bones and a sepulchral urn, together with several spear heads, about five inches long, having sockets for the handles, which were then discovered, we conceive it to have been originally a barrow or tumulus. Several skeletons apparently lying in regular order of sepulture, and a variety of much corroded pieces of armour, have, within the two last years, been also brought to light, in consequence of digging gravel for the roads, in a small homestead a short distance from the above.

THE CHURCH.

Tradition says the foundations of the church at Heckington were laid in the year 1101, and the whole building completed by the end of 1104, at the cost only of £433. 9s. 7d.;



Drawn & Engraved by R.L.Wright.

HECKINGTON CHURCH.

Published by J. Cressy, Stamford, 1825.

[illegible]

Page 10 of 10

of the "Catholic Church" is:

• Explain the importance of the following:

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right of his wife. . . .

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... ..

Journal of Management Studies, 19(6), 701-718.

foliage and small figures can render it, and hardly surpassed by any in the kingdom. The water drain and sepulchre are not yet cleaned, but are of the same excellent character, as is the arched tomb: the vestments of the effigy are also remarkably well executed. The sepulchre, of which there are not many specimens now remaining, consists of a series of richly ornamented niches, the largest of which represents the tomb, having angels standing beside it; the side niches have the Maries and other appropriate figures, and in the lower niches are the Roman soldiers reposing; these niches have rich canopies, and are separated by buttresses and rich finials, having all the spaces covered by very rich foliage. The various small ornaments about these stalls and niches form one of the best possible studies for enrichments of this date: and it is almost peculiar to this church, that there is nothing about it, except what is quite modern, that is not of the same style and character."

We shall now proceed to lay before the reader some further particulars relative to this church, which are not treated of, or entered fully upon, in the foregoing account. The roof of the nave rests on gothic arches, rising from fine clustered pillars; the two at the east end being considerably loftier and opening into the transepts. The south transept is known as the Winkhill aisle, being the exclusive burying place of the proprietors of Winkhill manor; and we find from Hollis's Notes, that there were then inscriptions to the memories of Lord Robert Marshal, Stephen Boston, clerk, and William Lyndsey. On a seat also in this transept was cut this bearing "3 water bougets," and on another in the north transept, which is called Riby quire, "a fesse betw. 3 water bougets." On a stone standing out of the wall in the south transept, are two shields, one bearing the letter Y in a bordure, the other a cross and saltier, which the reader will recognize as the bear-



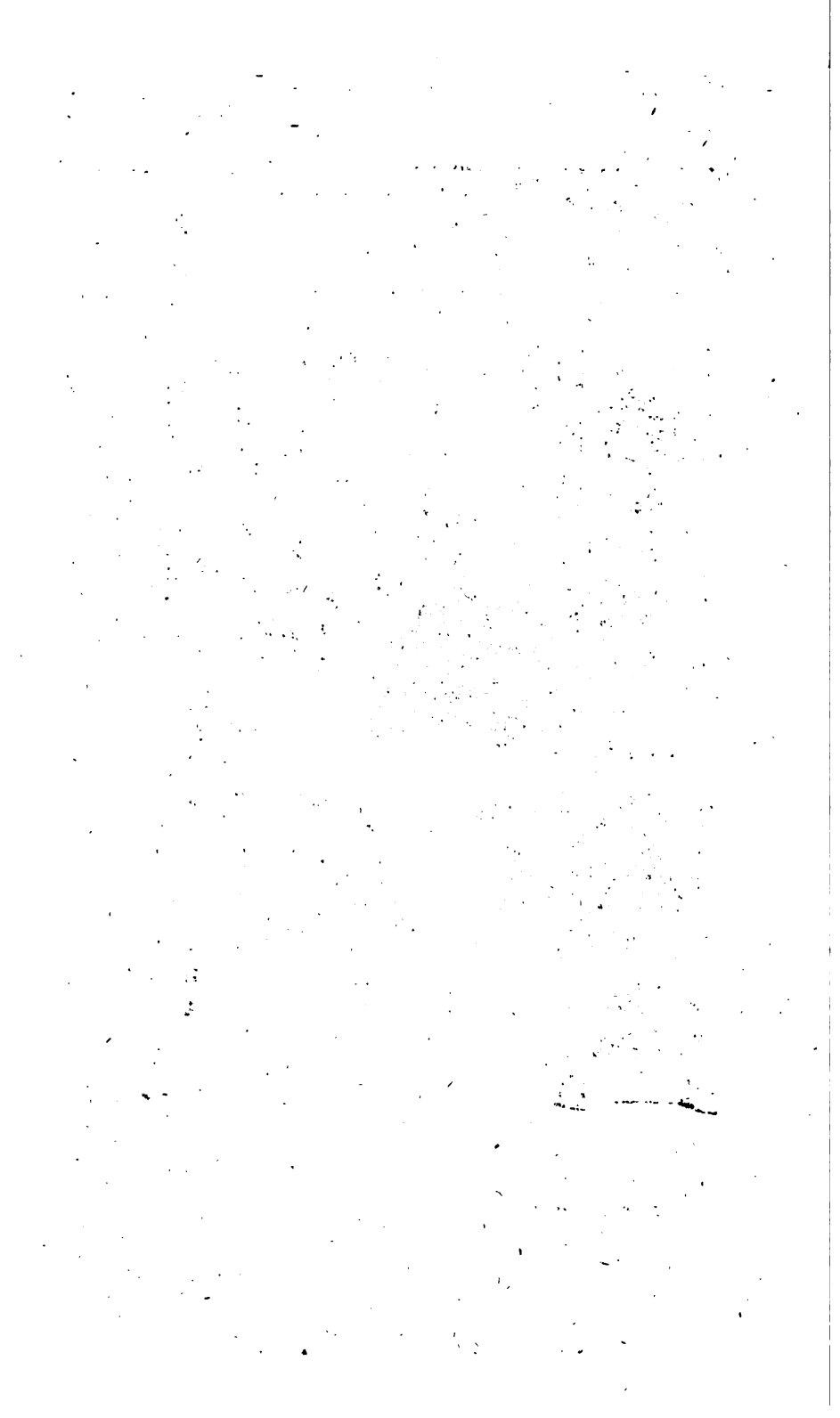


Drawn & Engraved by R.L. Wright.

HOLY SEPULCHRE IN BECKINGTON CHURCH.

Published by J. Creasey, Stamford, 1823.

s of the primary and secondary structure of the
naive and artist. The structure of the plan
pit is much older than the structure of the long
st end of the nave, which is placed the royal
tower contains the organ and the tower. We were
prised at finding no serious support for the tower in the
as is seen in the structure of the tower. The tower
double gable. The tower is a structure of the
to the lowering of the tower. The tower is a structure
has been the case, and the tower is a structure
will be the case, and the tower is a structure
the holy sepulchre, and the tower is a structure
Tonga, and the tower is a structure
inments," we shall have a structure of the
the eastern extremity of the tower, and the tower
altar, and which is a structure of the tower
ing, he thus writes, "The tower is a structure
high from the floor, and the tower is a structure
from east to west, and the tower is a structure
the south-west, and the tower is a structure
formed by a structure, decay, and the tower
went over the opening with the tower, and the tower
plants in two stories or three, and the tower
animals. Under the tower, and the tower
first rising from the tower, and the tower
and pediments below him, two angels are
supporting him. Under a pediment, under the tower
his right hand, is a woman holding a structure
Mary Magdalene bringing the stone to the tower
containing his body; and under the tower, and the tower
of the buttress another woman, representing a structure
accompanied her. With her is an angel, and the tower
touching, support the pediment over which the tower



ings of the primate of all England. The transepts, as well as the nave and aisles, are seated with modern pews, but the pulpit is much older. There is also a neat singing loft at the west end of the nave, over which is placed the royal arms. The tower contains six sweet and loud-toned bells. We were surprised at finding no screen separating the chancel from the nave, as is seen in most of our parish churches, but neat rails with double gates. The chancel is unusually large, and previous to the lowering of the roof, for there is no question that such has been the case, must have been a splendid apartment, every way fitted to contain those costly and elaborate works of art, the holy sepulchre and stone stalls, which so charmed Mr. Gough, and whose description of them in his "Sepulchral Monuments," we shall now transcribe. Of the former, which is at the eastern extremity of this building, on the north side of the altar, and which is correctly represented in the annexed engraving, he thus writes, "This at Heckington is about breast high from the floor, and two feet eight inches in the clear from east to west, and twenty inches from north to south. At the south-west angle is a cavity eight inches square, but whether formed by accident, decay, or design, is not known. The front over the opening without, is divided into six compartments in two stories or divisions, with pediments and purfled finials. Under the centre pediment is the figure of Christ rising from the tomb, and at his feet on the sides of the pediments below him, two angels looking up and worshipping him. Under a pediment, under a flying buttress at his right hand, is a woman holding something in her hand, perhaps Mary Magdalene bringing the spices for the purpose of embalming his body; and under the left hand pediment and flying buttress another woman, representing those who accompanied her. With her is an angel, and two more angels crouching, support the pediment over which our Lord rises.

The cornice above is charged with grotesque figures, blowing single and double flutes. Under four pediments below, divided from the upper by a fillet or fascia, perhaps representing the ledge of the tomb, are four soldiers in reclining postures." Although this still remains a beautiful work, yet we could not but regret that a monument so famed should have suffered not a little in its ornamental decorations, and that some of the figures should have been entirely demolished.

Again Mr. Gough, speaking of the stone stalls, says, "In the south wall of this chancel, opposite the sepulchre, are three beautiful stone stalls, with purfled pediments and finials, and in the spandrils, the figures of St. Margaret and the dragon, St. Catharine holding her wheel, the Deity, and Virgin, all crowned; also two men in curled hair, one kneeling, the other sitting, looking up to the pattern of a tower or steeple coming down from heaven; over which is a monk or religious holding a bowl and something with a handle in it." This splendid specimen of sculpture is in the highest state of preservation, and we conceive it to be now exactly as the artist left it. On the east of these is a double piscina, under highly enriched gothic arches.

The "*Effigies lapidea in muro boreali cujusdam religiosi, Potesgrave, ut dicitur,*" mentioned by Hollis, still remains under a flowery arch within the north wall of this chancel. This effigy, we have no hesitation in saying, was designed for Richard Potesgrave, who was Vicar in 1307, and, as we learn from a memorandum on stained glass, built this chancel in honour of the blessed Mary, St. Andrew, and all Saints, in the year 13---. The inscription on the window ran thus,—"*Ric'us de Potesgrave ——— istius eccl'ie hoc cancellum fecit in honore be'e Marie, et Sti. Andree, et or'm S'tor. A'no D'ni M,°CCC,°——.*" In the year 1800, on raising the stone, it proved to be the lid of a coffin, which contained the perfect

skeleton of a man, having at his head a small candlestick of silver, sufficiently large for a wax taper, but we could not learn that its accompanying crucifix was found, and neither the paten nor chalice. The taper-stick was not restored to its ancient dwelling, but was transferred into the parish chest. Some steps in the north wall conduct into a room, now used for lumber, below which is what is supposed to have been a charnel house, the entrance to which is from the east. But we are inclined to believe this building, although it wants many of its distinguishing characters, was originally designed for a crypt.

Before quitting the chancel we shall just briefly notice the painted glass and monumental inscriptions, contained therein when Mr. Hollis paid his visit in Kesteven. The eastern window displayed the following:—

B. semy of flowers de lize, a lyon rampant, or. a bend gobony, arg. & G.—*Beaumont.*

Sire Henry de Beaumont, D'nus de Heckington, A'no 50
Ed. 3.

B. semy of flowers de lize, a lyon rampant, or.—*Beaumont.*

Or. a plain crosse sa.—*Vescy.*

Effigies militis et mulieris gestantium Insignia predicta.

Ermyne, on a crosse G. a crown or.—*sepius.*

Gules, 3 crownes or.

A south window was thus emblazoned:—

B. semy of flowers de lize, a lyon rampant, or.—*Beaumont.*

Or. a plaine crosse, sa.—*Vescy.*

There were two tombs in the chancel, one of marble, for Henry Asty, knight, obiit 1383; the other of stone, for his wife Alice, without date, but bearing the following curious distich:—

*Hec Asty fossa nunc, Alicie tenet ossa,
Propter eam stantes hic vos estote precantes.*

The windows of the aisles, &c., were also embellished with stained glass, for we find that an east window, which was given about the year 1300 by Simon Baston, Vicar, had the arms of Beaumont; while the bearing "B. 3 crownes, or." was scattered over almost every window. The south window, over the porch, was decorated with the figure of "Lord Lore de Gant," who was the giver of it. Of the above specimens of stained glass nothing now remains but several small remnants, which the present Incumbent with great care collected from the numerous windows in which they were scattered, and having joined them together with much taste, it now nearly fills one window, and has a very pleasing effect.

Hollis mentions that John Dogson was buried near to the chancel in 1510, and the letters M. Y. Kyc, were engraven on his tomb. Also John Cawdron, 1488,—Henry —, 1503,—Elizabeth his wife,—William (who was Bailiff of Heckington), 1544,—and his two wives, Margery (Meres), who died 1509, and Elizabeth, who died 1556, were all buried near the chancel under four slabs. Another tomb was for Robert Thornburgh, Gent. 1487.

Over the entrance to the porch are three coats of arms, viz. 3 lions passant gardant,—a cross flory between 5 martlets,—and 3 crowns. In the church-yard is the base and part of the shaft of a cross, which, judging from the size, must have been of no mean altitude. The writer trusts he shall be excused in thus paying a tribute of affection, by noticing one of the many tombs without this church. It is to the memory of Thomas and Bridget Arnall, he deceased November 9th, 1780, aged 73, and his wife September 3rd, 1790, aged 80 years.

The church is a vicarage, dedicated to St. Andrew. Patron, the Rev. Henry Bristowe Benson, the present Vicar. Before the Reformation, the patronage of the living was vested with the Abbot and Convent of Bardney, and from the following list, some of the Incumbents must have been presented thereto prior to the taking down of the old church, which we find was given by Gilbert de Gaunt, in his foundation or restoration charter, to the above house.

A. D.	A. D.
1218.—Henry de Colevile.	1606.—Robert Tatther. ^f
—Simon, Capellanus. ^a	1610.—Thomas Noke.
1241.—Magr. Rob. de Caden.	1611.—Robert Lusser.
1292.—Simon de Baston.	1618.—Robert Sanderson.
1307.—Rich. de Pottesgrave. ^b	1619.—Richard Harrison.
1400.—Robert de Somerby.	1636.—Robert Sharpe.
1401.—Henry Yokefleet.	1646.—John Duckling.
1423.—Christopher Estwode.	1660.—Robert Sharpe.
1500.—John Doghson.	1666.—Edw. Whiston, A. M.
1510.—Henry Cartorge.	1670.—Anth. Berridge, A. B.
1520.—John Green. ^c	1694.—William Tonstall.
1535.—Henry Gaskyon.	1717.—Joseph Greenhill, A. M.
1540.—George Metcalffe. ^d	1740.—William Nottingham.
1562.—William Cawtrell.	1784.—Robert Benson, A. M.
1577.—Thomas Morley. ^e	1822.—H. B. Benson, A. M.

a This person was chaplain of the chapel of St. Nicholas, in the church of Heckington, to which he was presented by Henry de Colevile, with the consent of Matthew the Abbot, and the Convent, of Bardney.

b Presented by King Edward I., because of the vacancy of the Abbey of Bardney.

c Presented to the chapel of St. Nicholas.

d Ibid.

e This person and the one preceding him, were presented by Queen Elizabeth.

f Presented by King James. From this person to William Nottingham, who was presented by Patrick Heron, esquire, we have no account of the patrons of the living. We find the next Incumbent had also the presentation of the living, and in whose family it still remains.

The registers commence at Michaelmas, 1559, and nothing can exceed the beauty and perspicuity of the writing, for at least the first century and a half; and, as was customary with those early ecclesiastical records, the entrances are in Latin. In this, as in many other neighbouring places, we find Mr. Justice Thompson of Roxham frequently lending his aid in rendering happiness to others, by uniting them in the sacred bonds of matrimony.

Heckington was the native place of the Rev. John Has-trick, born A. D. 1649, who, after being Vicar of Kirton, near Boston for fourteen years, which benefice he resigned from conscientious scruples, became pastor of a large congregation at Lynn, at which place he died. The inscription on his monument there, gives him a high character for talent and integrity.

We have before noticed, in our description of the church, a part of that edifice which is named Winkhill aisle: the manor of Winkhill, to which that aisle appears to have been appropriated, (probably from the owner thereof, at the time the church was built, being a considerable benefactor towards it,) lies about half a mile north-east of the village. From the brief description we have been able to collect of the appearance of the old manor-house, previous to its taking down in the year 1780, we learn to form an opinion of its ancient importance, as well as the relative opulence of its master. A spacious porch, with a chamber above it, having on its front the badge of honour, which, judging from the wreath of oak leaves surrounding the same, was no common armorial distinction, conducted into the entrance hall. The arms, which were ermine and fretty, and an estoile on a chief, may, perhaps, lead to a decision to whom this place originally belonged.

A moat, surrounding an area of more than one acre, enclosed and protected this hall and its offices, to which the only approach was by a draw-bridge on the west. The armorial bearing was inserted in the front of the newly built manor-house, in which the owner, Mr. Christopher, now resides.

We have been able to obtain so little information, on which to depend, respecting an old habitation called Holmes House, which was lately standing on the east bank of that celebrated ancient canal, the Carr Dyke, or of a breast-plate and back-piece of steel, and a curious coat of arms cast in clay, said to have been found therein, that we deem it right no further to notice the same.

Of the modern state of Heckington we are able to give a very flattering description. The enclosure of the fen took place in the year 1764, at which time the tithes were exonerated. It is now a fine tract of valuable, well-drained, corn and pasture land, and contains several good farm-houses. Besides the above, another important benefit has been obtained within these modern times, viz. the carrying of an excellent turnpike-road through the whole length of this parish, an extent of six miles, opening thereby an easy access to the varied modes of travelling, as well as carriage of merchandise both by water and land, offered at the borough of Boston, or the more immediate neighbouring market-town of Sleaford.

In a parish lengthened out above six miles, and of one mile and a half in breadth, we are not surprised in finding a total of near six thousand acres, which, as might be expected, is divided among numerous proprietors, but the principal are B. Handley and S. Scott, esquires, Messrs. Godsons, Christopher, Levesley, &c. B. Handley, esquire, is also lord of the manor, having purchased his possessions here of Patrick Heron, esquire, of Carnock Tree hall, Newton Stewarty, in Galloway, North Britain.

An unusual number of most excellent houses, give an air of great respectability, wealth, and comfort, to this exceedingly cheerful looking village: and we were particularly gratified on seeing a newly erected vicarial residence, raised under the care of the present Incumbent, affording provision for that truly desirable object, a resident minister.

There are no chartered fairs, that we are aware of, attached to this village, but its locality was reckoned so convenient for the congregating of cattle, that ever since the year 1795, two fairs, for the sale of sheep and oxen, have been held, by a sort of common consent, in each year; one on the Friday previous to Lincoln April fair, and the other on the Friday before Old Michaelmas day. We were not a little surprised at finding in the customs of this place, a departure from the general and almost universal usage of holding the feast-day on the day of the dedication of the church. Here we have four entire calendar months intervening between the annual feast,—the Sunday after Magdalen, (twenty-second of July,)—and St. Andrew, (thirtieth of November).

There has been an amazing increase, since the days of Queen Elizabeth, in the families resident here, for at that period there were but one hundred and seven, and in the year 1821, we find a return of above thrice that number, viz. three hundred and thirty-one families, making a population of one thousand four hundred and thirty-eight. Still we consider the increase of near one hundred families, which took place within the small term of twenty years,—between the official returns of 1801 and 1821,—to be more remarkable.

HELPRINGHAM.

THIS is a populous and retired village, lying in the hundred of Aswardhurn, and is situated about seven miles south-east of Sleaford, and thirteen east of Boston.

Although we feel unequal to assign any, even the most remote, cause for the name of this place, yet we cannot for a moment coincide with the conjectures of Dr. Stukeley thereon; for we confess we do not see the relevancy of *Hale-parva-ingham* and *Helpringham*, or *Helpericham* as it was called in the beginning of the tenth century. True it is that *Hale parva* (Little Hale) forms part of the northern boundary of this place, and likewise that *ingham* signifies a village; therefore it is, perhaps, possible that *Helpringham* might mean a village near to, or adjoining *Hale parva*: but our conception of probability will not allow us to concede so much.

The accounts we have of this place from that old record called *Domesday*, give us the names of five of the Conqueror's followers who were rewarded with land in this place, and although they are unusually lengthened, we should not feel justified in omitting any information derived from so authentic a source.

"Land of Ivo Talbois. In *Helpericham* six oxgangs of land to be taxed. Land to six oxen. Soke in *Wiuelesthorp*. There are three sokemen and one bordar with one plough, and one acre of meadow."

"Land of Gilbert de Gand. In *Helpericham* (three carucates and two oxgangs) and in *Burton* (two carucates) five

carucates of land and two oxgangs to be taxed. Land to eight ploughs. Thirty-five sokemen and seven bordars have there ten ploughs and twenty-six acres of meadow."

"Land of Colsuain. In *Helpericham* two oxgangs of land to be taxed. Land to two oxen. There is one villane and two acres of meadow. This land is in a manner waste."^a

"Land of Robert de Veci. In *Helpericham* Eilric had seven carucates of land and three oxgangs to be taxed. Land to as many ploughs and oxen. Robert de Veci has there three ploughs in the demesne, and thirteen villanes and nine bordars with four ploughs, and fifteen acres of meadow. Value in King Edward's time three pounds, now twelve."

"Land of Geoffry of Cambrai. In *Helpericham* Azor had one church, to which belongs four oxgangs of land and four acres of meadow. Geoffry has it and it belongs to Deeping."^b

So early as about the year 1220, the Testa de Nevill informs us that "William le Latimer held in this parish half a knight's fee of William de Vescy, and he of the King of the ancient feoffment." And again that "Simon de Kyme held in the same place half a knight's fee of Gilbert de Gaunt, and he of the King of the ancient feoffment."^c

About three quarters of a mile north-west of the village is a hamlet or thorpe, known even to this day as Thorpe Latimer, which addition of *Latimer* it has most probably had ever since the above William le Latimer held the manor-house here, before which time it is not unreasonable to suppose it was called

^a This doubtless was the fen land, which is of large extent, and, before the enclosure, was a great part of the year almost wholly under water and "in a manner waste."

^b This we suppose to mean, that Azor was the priest or incumbent of the church, but that the patronage belonged to Geoffry of Cambrai; but what was intended by its belonging to Deeping, we are totally at a loss to comprehend.

^c Testa de Nevill, p. 322.

Helpringham Thorpe. The traditionary account of its supplementary name being derived from its having been the residence of the justly celebrated Bishop Latimer, is not supported by the slightest corroborative evidence that we have ever met with; but it seems to have arisen solely from a long line of successors of the family of Latimer continuing in possession of the manor in this thorpe, and having a house, as is presumed, of some importance and strength, situated on that area, containing near half an acre, which is enclosed by a broad and deep moat.

The next possessor we meet with, after William le Latimer, is William Lord Latimer, who held this manor in the ninth year of Edward III. It appears that this William leaving no male heir, his daughter, who married first John Lord Nevill of Raby, became possessed of it, and she, surviving him, conveyed again the manor to her second husband, Robert Lord Willoughby de Eresby; in whose family it appears to have continued until the time of Henry VI., in the ninth year of whose reign John Nevill, Lord Latimer, died seized of it. Again, a George Lord Latimer held it in the ninth year of the reign of Edward IV.; but in the seventeenth of Henry VII. the manor came into the possession of Lord Willoughby de Brooke, in whose family it still remains. The lands about the present manor-house at Thorpe Latimer, which is situated immediately adjoining the moated area noticed above, are ancient enclosure, in quantity about one hundred and fifty acres.

There is also another manor in this parish, which is thus noticed in the Exchequer Records: "Robert Levesley and his wife were made to shew by what title they held the manor of Helpringham, in the county of Lincoln."^a This we apprehend to be the manor known now as Knott Hall, of which Mr. Tomlinson is the proprietor.

^a Originalia, 10th Elizabeth.

The vicarial church of Helpringham, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, and of which the Rev. Thomas Mitohinson is patron, was, before the dissolution of monasteries, inappropriate to the Abbey of Bourn in this county. It is mostly of Decorated character, much resembling Heckington in some parts; and consists of a lofty tower and spire, a nave, side aisles, and chancel, with a porch on the south side. The nave is parted from each side aisle by four gothic arches, resting on three fine clustered pillars. The pulpit is of oak, and the seats principally the old oak stalls, which are in excellent preservation. There is also a modern loft or gallery at the west end, designed for the use of the singers. The font is circular, having a cluster of small columns on the sides, with pillars at the four compartments, and was doubtless in its pristine state, exceedingly handsome. It is now greatly mutilated. A wooden screen of gothic workmanship separates the nave and chancel, in the south wall of the latter are three unornamented niches or stalls, and a piscini under a Saxon arch with round pillars. There is another piscini in the wall of the south aisle.

It appears from Hollis that the windows of this, like most other churches in Lincolnshire, were formerly enriched with the lively and gay emblazonry of heraldic distinctions. We are not certain whether the first description applies to one or three windows, but are inclined to believe the latter.

Fenestra borealis.

G. 3 chevrons, or. a labell of five pointes, B.——

Arg. 2 barrs, G. in chief 3 torteauxes, over all a bend aa.——

Threkingham.

G. 2 waterbougets, arg.——*Ross.*

D'nus Lambertus de Threkingham me fecit.

From the inscription in the above window, it appears to have been given by Lord Lambert of Threkingham.

Or. a bend, G. Or. a bend, sa. Arg. a cheife, G.

Sa. a crosse engrayled, or. a label of 3 points, arg.—*Ufford*.

G. a crosse patonce, or.—*Latymer*.

Fenestra australis.

G. a crosse patonce, or.—*Latymer*.

G. a chevon betw. 10 crosses, botony.—*Kyme*.³

Hollis seems to have overlooked the monumental inscriptions in the church; for assuredly if the following one, on a brass plate, which still remains on the north wall of the chancel, was put up in any reasonable time after the decease of the person it commemorates, it must have been here several years antecedent to the time the above gentleman took his notes.

Here lieth the Boddie of Anthonie Newlove the Elder, Patron of the Vicaridge of this Church of Helpringham, whos departed this World the Fifth Daye of October, 1597^b.

We must of necessity omit to notice the numerous remembrances with which the floor is almost wholly covered, as none of them on the score of antiquity have any claim for insertion.

There is in the tower a good town clock and five musical bells; the third, which was cast in 1600, is the most ancient,—and the fifth, or passing bell, bears the following appropriate lines:—

^a Harl. MSS., British Museum, No. 6829, p. 246.

^b The following extract from the Originals, in the Exchequer, doubtless relates to this person: "De Antonio Newlove occasione ad ostendendum quo titulo tenet Rectoriam de Helpryngham, in com. Linc. Pasche Rec. 12 Eliz."

*All men that heare my mornfull sound,
Repent before you lye in ground. 1627.*

The exterior architecture of the church is highly enriched; the tower, through which on the west is an entrance under a fine gothic arch, supports a noble and lofty crotcheted spire, at the spring of which are four beautiful pinnacles, and a plain parapet, where may be obtained an almost boundless view of the surrounding country. The nave has an embattled parapet, with a turreted pinnacle at the south-east corner, serving as the entrance from the winding stairs to the roof. The aisles are plain, and the chancel, which appears to have been higher, has a fine and perfect cross at the east end.

Anterior to the year 1535, from which time we give a connected list of Incumbents, we have only been able to collect the names of the three following persons who enjoyed this benefice. First we find a Henry de Sandwich was presented to the church of Helpringham, in the year 1227, by the Abbot and Convent of Bourn; but this person, being A. D. 1263, consecrated to the see of London, one Richard de Maunaton, became vicar, through the presentation of Lord Hugh Bigod, the heir of the family of William de Kyme. The next person who enjoyed the living was William de Northbury, who appears to have been presented in the year 1272, on the death of Maunaton, by the executors of the above Hugh Bigod, with the consent of the Abbot and Convent of Bourn. We now come to the Vicars of later years, and find

A. D.

1535.—Edmund Preston.

1570.—Anthony Newlove.

1600.—William Burnby.

1631.—John Foster.

1671.—Benjamin Deacon.

A. D.

1707.—Robert Smith.

1716.—Samuel Galley.

1773.—Isaac Cookson.

1784.—John Moore Brooke.

1799.—Thomas Mitchinson.

Having thus given an account of the church, &c., we add a few curious extracts from the registers, which commence with January, 1559.

The church corne was sould by the chuchwarden in 1576, for £7. 13s. 4d
In 1580 the Bull Dale (by estimation 2 acres,) was let to John Smyth for 10s. and he to keep the Bull. 1605.—Money given towards the builinge of Mr. Fox his Booke of Acts & Monuments, for the Towne.—Henry 'Twell, 10s.—William Morrice, 6s. 8d. 1606—The south aisle repaired by the parish. Before that Mr. Robert Crebell claimed the quire at the east end thereof, as belonging to Thorpe Latimore. 1610—24. June, being midsummer day, the greate bell fell down as the people were ringing, & brake through the high bell-chamber, & strucke thorow the stone floor into the ground 3 quarters of a yard; which was throwe one of her yndryons breaking, and had no hurt at all to her. 1621—Mr. John Cawdron payd to the Churchwardens £20., given by his father, Edward Cawdron, Esquire, the use whereof is to be distributed to the poor on St. Thos. day. 1662—Mem. It is agreed that every £20. assessed shall find a horse for a dragoon man, and if he shall be out two days together, then the party whose horse they shall have, shall be excused when it shall come to their turn agayne. 1673—No Churchwarden shall relife no manner of persons except they have Sir Edward Lake hands. No Churchwarden shall pay above twopence for a fulmard's head. 1675—The church corn sold for £13.

A few years since, on levelling a part of one of the banks of the Carr Dyke, which runs through this parish from north to south, two human skeletons were discovered. This is not by any means an extraordinary circumstance, for it is well known that this canal continued navigable several centuries after its first formation by the Romans, and therefore it is very probable that the bodies of the navigators might occasionally be buried on the banks thereof.

The parish of Helpringham, which was enclosed in the year 1773, contains in the whole, high land and fen, about three thousand two hundred acres. The soil of the high land, nearly one thousand seven hundred acres, is chiefly clay and

produces excellent wheat and beans; the fen, which is part clay and part silt, with a small portion of moor, is fit for oats and other grain. Lord Willoughby de Brooke, who possesses more than one-third of the parish, is lord of the manor of Helpringham cum Bicker, and lord paramount within the parish of Helpringham. Although Sir Thomas Whichcote, baronet, —. Litchford, esquire, and Messrs. Parke, Tomlinson, and Baxter, are also large proprietors, yet we find more than forty freeholders here.

The tithes were exonerated, by land given in lieu thereof, when the enclosure took place, at which time also twenty acres of fen land were allotted for the poor; the rent of which is laid out in coals for their use.

What an amazing increase in the population appears to have taken place since the time of Queen Elizabeth. We call it an amazing increase, because in such a village as this, where no manufactory has been introduced, nor any thing apparently to superinduce so great an addition of numbers, it must be considered as extraordinary. Doubtless the cultivation of the fen, which is but thinly scattered over with houses, has led to the settlement of numerous families of the poor, whose labours would of necessity be indispensable for the management thereof. The Harleian MSS. acquaint us that Helpringham, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, had fifty-six families residing in it, and the return given in A. D. 1821, states them to have increased to one hundred and forty-five, with a population of six hundred and ninety-three.

HOWELL.

THE secluded and very small village of Howell, which is not without its interest to a meditative and retiring mind, is situated rather more than one mile north of Heckington, and about five miles nearly east of Sleaford, lying in the hundred of Aswardhurn.

It is but very little we can collect respecting this place, from either Domesday Book, or that other old register of possessions, which we have so repeatedly quoted, the Testa de Nevill. The following extracts, however, from the former, will tend to show us the poverty of it, in as much as regards the number of acres at that time in cultivation

“Land of Gilbert de Gand. In *Huuelle* one carucate and half an oxgang. Land to one plough. Three sokemen have there one plough, and two draught oxen, and eight acres of meadow.”

“Land of Colsuain. In *Huuelle* hundred, two oxgangs and a half to be taxed. Land to two oxen. Soke in *Cherchebi*.”

The latter record informs us that “Richard de Huwell held his lands in Huwell of the Bishop of Lincoln, and not by military services.” Also that “the heirs of Gilbert de Huwell held in the same place, the fifth part of a knight’s fee of Gilbert de Gaunt, and he of the King.”^a

The manor of Howell appears to have remained with the above family till A. D. 1322, in which year we find that

a Testa de Nevill, p. 321.

Richard de Heuwell, knight, presented to the Rectory one John de Strettonill; but soon after we find it possessed by one Richard de Hebden, knight, whose posterity for nearly a century after continued to enjoy the same. In the year 1448, the manor was in the hands of a branch of the family of Dymoke of Scrivelsby, in this county, who were in possession thereof a long time after A. D. 1574, probably till the year 1730, at which time that family sold the manor of South Kyme to the Duke of Newcastle. Sir William Smith, baronet, seems to have been the next proprietor; after him, the Rev. William Holland; and then, the family of J. C. L. Calcraft, esquire, of Ancaster, who sold it, A. D. 1803, to the present owners.

The church is a peculiarly humble edifice, consisting of a nave, north aisle and chapel, chancel, south porch, and double arched gable at the west end, formerly containing two small bells, one of which only now remains, the other, as it is said, being sold in times of bad taste to repair the church. This end is of Decorated character, and is a good specimen of that kind of substitute for a tower. Over the porch are still in good preservation the arms of Hebden,—Ermine, 5 fusiles in fess, G.—impaling a bend dexter, charged with four escallops or water bougets. The arch within the porch is Norman. The north door is still open, and the aisle has a beautiful Early English lancet window at the west end.

The two pillars which separate the nave and aisle are circular, with semicircular arches. The seats are modern, and the pulpit though ancient is plain. The royal arms, painted in the reign of Queen Anne, forms the division between the nave and chancel. The font is octangular, standing on a similar shaped pedestal, and bears marks of fastenings for the lid, which were in general use in popish times. From Hollis's Notes we gather that the following arms, some of which yet remain, were sculptured thereon.

The chevron with chaplets, & crosses botony fitchy.

Hebden, per se. In pale Hebden & Ry.

A bend betw. 6 martlets. In pale Hebden & Ry.

Mr. Hollis's Notes on the windows, &c., being very curious, we shall for once depart from our accustomed plan, and give his account of the same as near as possible in English.

In the eastern window of the chancel was the effigy of one Hugo de Cleypoll, Rector of Howell, in the attitude of prayer; above, on the right, was the figure of the Virgin Mary, and on the left, St. Andrew. It was enriched also with the following arms:—

Ermyne, 5 fusills in fesse, G.—*Hebden.*

Ermyne, 2 barrs, G. a bend sa.—

Arg. on a chevron betw. 3 chaplets, G. as many crosses botony fitchy, or.—

One of the south windows of the chancel bore an inscription in exceedingly *bald* Latin, but supposed to intimate that *I. Spencer, a pious one, gave this gift of light.* Below this label was his figure in a scarlet vest, under which was an inscription commemorating the kindness of Dame Catherine Hebden, and above the whole, the figures of the Virgin Mary and St. Andrew.

Another window on the same side had a figure in a purple robe, above which were Saints Anthony and Michael, and over all, *Merciful God of Heaven now spare John Spencer.*

A third window, by the side of the above, contained the motto—*O Heavenly King have mercy on John Spencer,* and the figure of Saint Peter, holding in his right hand a palm branch, and in his left keys, a chain, and chaplet, over which were Saints Catharine and Margaret, and under the whole these arms,—Arg. a sword sa. hilt, pomell, & neuf, or.

A south window of the nave had the bearing *Ermipe*, 2 bars, G. a bend sa., and the west or belfry window the figures of a man and woman, representing the salutation of the Virgin Mary by the angel Gabriel, the Holy Trinity, and a label, of which two words, viz. *Nicholaus Rector*, were only legible. This we believe to refer to Nicholas Gibthorpe, who was Rector about the year 1420.

The above, with the exception of a small portion in the chapel, of which we shall speak presently, formed the whole of the stained glass, about the year 1640; we shall therefore go on to notice the monumental inscriptions existing at the same period.

A tomb or slab of stone near the altar, acquainted us that "Here lies Master John Croxby, formerly rector of this church, who died — die — in the year of our Lord 1400, on whose soul may God have mercy." Another stone slab was to the memories of Richard de Hebden, knight, who died the twenty-fifth of April, 1373, and — his wife, who died in the year 1353, on whose souls &c. Upon this slab were the five shields following:—

Ermyne, 5 fusills in fesse, G.—*Hebden*.

B. a bend betw. 6 martlets, arg.—*Lutterell*.

Empaled. { *Ermyne*, 5 fusills in fesse, G.—*Hebden*.
 { G. a bende *ermyne*.—*Ry*.

Arg. on a chevron betw. 3 chaplets, G. as many crosses
 botony fitchy, or.—

Ermyne, 2 barrs G. a bend sa.—

A third slab commemorated the death, A. D. 1386, of William the son of Nicholas de Hebden, knight, and Catharine his wife; and a fourth had inscribed "Here lie Nicholas de Hebden, knight, who died 1416, and Katharine his wife, who

died 1427." There was also in the chancel, on the top step leading to the altar, this inscription, *Here let me worship God.*

In the chantry chapel was a stone to the memory of Richard Spencer and Emily his wife, who died 1430, and in the north window were their effigies with this inscription, *To the blessed Mary they gave this Altar*, and the bearing, Arg. a sword sa. hilt, pomel, and neuf, or. Here we have a decided proof of the existence of altars in these chapels. The figures of Saints Peter and Andrew, standing on two brackets, and a slab, inscribed "Here lies Richard Whitead, who died 1508, on whose soul &c.," were also in this chapel.

Just by the entrance of the church on the south, was a slab inscribed, "Here lie Richard Boteler of Howell, who died the first day of January, A'no D'ni 1457, and Matilda his wife, who died the sixth day of August, A'no 1457, on whose souls &c." Near this on another slab was "Here lies John Spencer."

Of all the profusion of coloured glass scarcely a remnant remains; but we were exceedingly gratified by finding several of the above memorials still extant, legible, and in some cases in admirable preservation. After a little search we also discovered part, about half it appears, of the engraved step which led to the altar, with the letters *m adora* quite plain and clear, but the other part containing *Hic Deu* is not to be found.^a

In the north wall of the chancel, under a gothic arch with hanging tracery, is a coffin-shaped stone bearing the half

a It is not unreasonable to suppose that these steps have been taken up and relaid, and that the placing of this stone with the inscription outward was purely accidental. The other part most probably remains near its old companion, with the inscription concealed; indeed, the writer of this article is so ardent an admirer of antiquities, that were he clothed with proper authority, he would relay the steps, and on finding the much wished for relic, "*Hic Deum adora*" should again be seen "*in superiori gradu ascensionis ad altara.*"

figure of a female, and a child lying by her side, with uplifted hands as if in the attitude of prayer, but without either date or inscription. This is a beautiful specimen of the sunken or concave art of sculpture, where the figures are kept down below the surface of the stone. This chancel also contains a marble mural monument of the Dymoke family, which has been exceedingly handsome, but is now in a very dilapidated state.

Before taking leave of Howell church, which is dedicated to St. Oswald, we must not omit to notice the thorough and excellent repair it has lately undergone, and the commendably neat state in which we found it. Edward Werge, esquire, is Patron of the living, and the Rev. George Holt the present Rector.

The remains of a stone cross having a shaft about six feet high, with its large square pedestal, stands on the south side of the church, a few feet from the porch. Mr. Hollis says that it had *Pray for the soul of John Spencer, Rector of this church*, and *I. H. C.* engraved thereon, which, although not to be "read by him that runneth," is still very traceable; it is in baso relievo, and round the shaft. The *I. H. C.* appears to have been on a sort of shield on the west side.

Howell contains near one thousand four hundred acres of excellent land, of which Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. W. Ingall, and Mr. J. Vessey are the principal proprietors, and with whom a spirit of improvement seems to prevail, as is very obvious from the appearance of the farm-houses and domestic offices. It is said that some of these houses were built out of the materials of what was called the old hall, situated to the east of the road leading to Ewerby. In Queen Elizabeth's reign we find fourteen families resident here, and in the year 1881 only thirteen.

KIRKBY LAYTHORPE.

THIS small village is situated about two miles south-east of Sleaford, on the turnpike road to Boston, and in the hundred of Aswardhurn.

In the Domesday Record this place is called *Cherchebi*, which, being taken into consideration as well as its modern name of *Kirkby*, there seems reason to suppose, took its rise from *kirk* or *church*, and *by* or *bye*, a village. But as there is nothing remarkable either in the size or beauty of its church to claim the distinguishing character of *Kirk* or *Church-by*, we conjecture the name to be derived from the circumstance of its once contained two churches.

The adjunct of *Laythorpe* added to the name of this village at the time its hamlet of *La Thorpe* was incorporated with it, is by comparison of modern date, for in the times of Henry III. and Edward I., *Kirkby* and *La Thorpe* are spoken of as distinct places.

Domesday Book has the following notices of this place:—

“Land of the King. Manor. In *Cherchebi* Earl Morcar had five carucates of land to be taxed. Land to four ploughs. The King has now there one plough, and fourteen sokemen ——— ploughs, ——— five villanes, and five bordars, with one plough. Half the advowson of the church there. Value in King Edward's time four pounds, now eight pounds, when burnt and weighed.”

“Land of Gilbert de Gand. In *Cherchebi* seven carucates of land to be taxed. Land to five ploughs. Thirty-one sokemen and six bordars have there six ploughs.”

"Claims in *Chetsteden*. Colsuain claims two oxgangs of land and one garden of the King, in *Cherchebi*, of the land of Earl Morcar, which Torchil held; the jury of the wapentake say that that, and the soke was Earl Morcar's, and that this land did not lay in any other manor."

The Hundred Rolls in the time of Henry III. inform us that in the fortieth year of that reign (A. D. 1256), "Adam de Cranewelle held lands in Kirkeby and Laythorpe." And about fourteen years after we find the following account given of Kirkby:—

"Roisa de Verdon held in Kyrkeby and other places in the hundred of Aswardhurn, two parts of a knight's fee of the honour of Lancaster; this renders service to the King by the hands of William de Lancaster.

"Also Hugh de Nevill held in the same place, of Gilbert de Gaunt, the fourth part of a knight's fee, and the said Gilbert of the King of the ancient feoffment.

"Also Beatrice de Engleby held in the same village, of the Count of Salisbury, three parts of a knight's fee, and the Count of the King.

"Also Alan the son of William held in the same place, one knight's fee and the tenth part of a fee, of Simon de Kyme, and the said Simon of the Count of Salisbury, and the Count of the King.

"Also Henry de Hornbingerd held there the third part of a knight's fee of John Pychot, and the said John of the Bishop of Durham, and the Bishop of the King."^a

In the reign of Edward I. it appears that John de la Mor', had possessions in Kirkeby and Leilthorp,^b from which time to about the year 1600, when the manor of Kirkeby belonged

^a Testa de Nevill, p. 321.

^b Hundred Rolls.

to the Carrs of Sleaford, we have no account of this place. From this family it has descended to the Earl of Bristol, the present lord of the manor and patron of the rectory.

The rectory of Kirkby was in two parts, with two churches, each dedicated to St. Dionysius or Dennis, for in the Valor Ecclesiasticus, A. D. 1535, we have "Hen. Norton, Rector, Kirkby Denys dimid' eccl'ie ib'm," and "Will. Downes, Rector, Kirkby Denys alt'iur dimid' eccl'ie." Besides the above there was also a chapel in the hamlet of Laythorpe, which we shall presently notice.

As is the case with all parishes which formerly contained two churches, especially in this part of the country, only one now remains. The site of the north church, long since decayed, may be very readily traced, and its form and figure painted to the fancy, in a field adjoining and to the north-west of the parsonage house, as well as the foundations of several houses.

The church remaining bears marks of antiquity, beyond which it has nothing to recommend it to notice. Nevertheless as the poet saith "England, with all thy faults, I love thee still," so an admirer of simple rustic beauty, will not fail to be pleased with the situation and general effect of Kirkby church. It consists of a low embattled tower, ornamented with pinnacles, a nave, north aisle, and chancel, with a porch on the south built of wood, both curious and ancient. The tower appears to be a much more modern erection than the body of the church. The entrance by the porch is through a fine Norman arch, with circular pillars. The aisle is parted from the nave by three round pillars, supporting Norman arches. The seats are partly ancient oak stalls, and partly modern pews. The font is octagonal, standing on a shaft of a similar figure, and decorated alternately with blank shields and win-

dow tracery. The chancel is separated from the nave by a plain low screen, and contains two Early English lancet windows.

Of the stained glass noticed by Mr. Hollis, there is scarcely a remnant left, if we except a shield bearing the arms of the Sleaford family, which still remains in the window mentioned by him.

In cancello.

B. 3 Lyons rampant, or.—*Dacres.*

Ermyne, on a fesse G. 3 crosses bottony, or.—*Aunsell.*

Fenestra australis navis.

Chequy, or. & B.—*Warren.*

G. 3 Lyons passant guardants, or.—*England.*

Q'terly or. & G. a bendlet sa. a labell of five points arg.—*Lacy.*

Fenestra orientalis ad sinistram cancelli.

Arg. a chevron or. between 3 trefoyles vert.—*Sleaford.*

Barry of 6, G. & arg. a crosse portate in bend sinister B.—

Barry of 6, G. & arg. in chiefe 3 mulletts pierced arg.—

Fenestra borealis inferior.

Ermyne a saltier engrayled, on a chiefe G. a Lyon passant guardant, or.—*Ayrmyn.*

In Campanili.

G. 3 barrs arg.—

Hollis also tells us that on a seat or bench was carved “—— 2 keyes in saltier, wards downwards,” and “the three Cars, Robert, William, and Edward, neatly painted above the pillars.” Whether Mr. Hollis intended by this last mentioned article their portraits or their names, we are unable to decide.

No trace now remains of either the carved seat or the paintings above the pillars, though we apprehend were the thick coatings of whitewash scraped off, the paintings would be restored.

In the chancel is a brass plate to the memory of "the learned and pious Thomas Meriton, B. D., Rector of this place and Asgarby, donor of a charitable bequest to each parish, &c. He lived beloved and revered for his great learning and exemplary virtue. He died 1685." There are likewise inscriptions to the memories of Maria, daughter of Robert Garland, Rector, and to Gascoigne Wright, Rector, who died A. D. 1767.

The Rectory of Kirkby was united with the Rectory of Asgarby in the year 1737, when the Rev. Charles Hervey was incumbent, and before whose time we have not been able to obtain a satisfactory list of those who held this benefice, but such as we have we here give:—

A. D.	A. D.
1630.—Robert Garland.	1735.—Charles Hervey.
1657.—Richard Dix.	1737.—Gascoigne Wright.
1681.—Francis Wright.	1779.—Edward Mills.
1684.—Thomas Meriton.	1822.—William A. Hammond.
1690.—William Pearson.	1823.—John Smith.

The site of the chapel in the hamlet of Laythorpe or La Thorpe, which was a curacy and dedicated to St. Peter, is decidedly at the north-west corner of a field, a few hundred yards down the lane leading to the southern extremity of the village, and to the parish of Burton Pedwardine.

Seven houses yet remaining, beside the foundations of several others very easily to be traced, all on the west side of the road, form, it is presumed, all that is known of the hamlet of Laythorpe.

In a farm-house in this hamlet, built up in the kitchen wall, is a very handsome octagonal font, with blank shields on each side, apparently perfect, wanting only the pedestal or shaft. It projects from the wall about two thirds of its whole size, having all the interior open, and doubtless, judging from its situation, was intended, when first placed there, to serve the purpose of a common sink or wash stone. It is however now pretty well preserved, being regarded by the occupier of the house as an object entitled to respect, and to a lover of antiquity is a very interesting relic. It is conjectured that this font was brought here on the demolition of the north church, and not of the chapel, as fonts were not usually allowed in chapels of ease or oratories.

The boundary lines of the two medieties of Kirkby, and of the hamlet of Laythorpe, are now unknown; but an ancient stone on the east side of the road, near and in front of the rectory house, is supposed to point out the division between North and South Kirkby, and it is presumed the whole of the parish south of the turnpike-road is the hamlet of Laythorpe.

The Earl of Bristol is, we believe, sole proprietor of the parish of Kirkby Laythorpe. An unusual quantity of small enclosures abounding with handsome hedge-row timber, and fields of "living green," give an air of warmth and rural comfort to the village.

As is the case with some other of the smaller villages in the immediate neighbourhood of Sleaford, the number of families has decreased here since the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In the Harleian MSS. this place is thus noticed,—*Kirkbie Dionysii rect. xxi familiae. Kirkbie Petri in qua est tantum cur. xviii familiae.* The return in the year 1821, states the number of families in the whole parish to be only thirty-five, with a population of one hundred and sixty-six.

SOUTH AND NORTH KYME.

THE history of South Kyme in the hundred of Aswardhurn, which is situated about eight miles south-east of Sleaford, and its hamlet of North Kyme in the hundred of Langoe, being so intimately blended, that we deem it best not to separate them, but to treat of both under one head, viz. that of Kyme.

The Domesday account is as follows:—

“Land of the King. In *Chime* Earl Morcar had four carucates of land and two oxgangs to be taxed. Land to two ploughs. The King has now there half a plough, and twelve villanes and three bordars with two ploughs. There are two churches and one priest, and two acres of meadow, and six fish garths of four shillings. Wood pasture here and there two hundred and ten acres, and seven hundred acres of marsh. Value in King Edward’s time forty shillings, now sixty shillings, when burnt and weighed.”

“Land of Robert de Todeu. In *Nortchime* Mere had six carucates of land to be taxed. Land to eight ploughs. Ivo, a vassal of Robert’s, has there three ploughs, and twelve villanes, and two bordars, with four ploughs, and fifty-six acres of meadow, and thirty acres of wood pasture. Value in King Edward’s time three pounds, and thirteen shillings, and eightpence, now seven pounds.”

“Land of Gilbert de Gand. In *Chime* Tunne had fourteen oxgangs of land to be taxed. Land to one plough and a half. Egbricht, a vassal of Gilbert’s, has there half a plough, and six villanes with half a plough, and one acre of meadow, and eighty-two acres of coppice wood, and three fisheries of two

shillings. Value in King Edward's time twenty shillings, now forty shillings."

"Land of Colsuain. In *Nortchime* Outi had five carucates of land and two oxgangs to be taxed. Land to two ploughs. Colsuain has there one plough, and one fishery of eightpence, and twenty acres of meadow, and five acres of coppice wood. Value in King Edward's time forty shillings, now four pounds."

This place was for many years the seat of the ancient family of Kyme, who took their name from it, and of others of noble rank, who have distinguished themselves in the history of their country, of whom the accompanying pedigree will shew the descent at one view.

The first of the family of Kyme^a which we find mentioned is William de Kyme, whose son, Simon, founded the Priory of Bolington in this county, and by Roese, daughter of Robert Dapifer, steward to Gilbert de Gaunt, had issue one son,

Philip, who was Sheriff of this county, A. D. 1168 and 1169, and the founder of the Priory of Kyme. He was steward to Gilbert de Gaunt, Earl of Lincoln, and one of the Barons in that great council holden in London, anno 1177. By Hade-wyse, his wife, he left

Simon, his son and successor, who, adhering to the rebellious barons against King John, was excommunicated by the Pope, and his lands seized and given to Geffery Nevil. He died, having been thrice Sheriff of this county, the fourth of Henry III., and was succeeded by

Philip, his son, who had livery of his lands again, but departed this life A. D. 1242, leaving by Agnes de Waleys his wife, Simon, his son and heir, who died *s. p.* the thirty-second of Henry III., when William, his brother, doing his homage,

"One of the Kymes founded a Benedictine Priory at Burwell, near Louth."
GOUGH'S CAMDEN, vol. ii. p. 376.

PEDIGREE of the BARONY of KYME.

William de Kyme.

Simon de Kyme,—temp. Stephen.

Philip de Kyme,—temp Henry II.

Simon de Kyme, ob. 4 Henry III (1219).

Philip de Kyme, ob. 27 Henry. III (1242). = Agnes de Walleys

Simon de Kyme, ob. s. p. 32
Henry III (1247).

William de Kyme, ob. 43 Henry
III (1258).

Philip de Kyme, ob. 16 Edward II (1322).

William de Kyme, ob. s. p.
12 Edward IV (1337).

Gilbert de Umfravill, = Lucy de Kyme.
earl of Angus.

Gilbert de Umfravill, ob.
10 Henry V (1421).

Gilbert Burdon, = Elizabeth, sister and
or Barrodon. heir to earl Gilbert.

Robert de Umfravill, ob. s. p.
15 Henry VI (1436.)

Henry Talboys. = Elizabeth Burdon,
daughter and heir.

Walter Talboys.

John Talboys. = Agnes, dau. &
heir of Sir Rob.
Cockfield.

Walter Talboys, = Alice, dau. of
æt. 40, 15 Hen. VI (1436). Sir Humphrey
Stafford, Knt.

John Talboys, tem. Catherine, d. &
22. H. VI. coh. of Sir Will.
Gibthorpe, Knt.

William Talboys, a taint & beheaded
1 Edward IV (1461). = Elizabeth,
d. of Lord Bonvill. Alianor,
w. of Th. Strang-
wish.

Margaret wife of
John Ayscough.

Sir Robert Talboys, = Elizabeth, dau. of
restored 12 Ed. IV. Sir J. Heron, Kt.

Sir Geo. Talboys. = Elizabeth, dau.
of Sir William
Gascoigne.

Sir Will. Talboys,
Kt. Robert & Rich-
ard, ob. s. p.

Maud, wife Elizabeth,
of Sir Robt. wife of Sir
Tirwhit, of J. Vava-
Kettleby, Kt. sour, Kt.

Maud, John William,
Walter, and a priest,
Dorothy, ob. 33 Hen.
s. p. VII.

Sir Gilbert Talboys,
created Ld Kyme, by
Hen. VIII (1529). ob.
1530.

Elizabeth,
d. of Sir J. Blount,
of Kynlet, in Shrop-
shire.

Elizabeth. = Sir Ch. Wil-
loughby.^b
Cecilia. = 1. Wm. In-
gleby, Esq.
2. J. Tor-
ney, Esq.
Anne. = 1. Sir Edw.
Dymoke.^c
2. Sir Robt.
Carr.

George, Robert,
ob. s. p.

Elizabeth, mar.
1. Thomas Wimbish, Esq.
2. Ambrose Dudley. Earl
of Warwick, ob. s. p.

^a Called Earl of Kyme in the Annals of William of Worcester. *Hearn's Lib. Nig. Scaccarii*, p. 498.

^b From him descended the Lords Willoughby of Parham.

^c From this marriage is derived the present family of Dymoke, of Scrivelsby Court, in this county.

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had livery of his lands; which William, the forty-third of Henry III., died without issue, and was succeeded by another

Philip, who performed great services in the wars of Scotland, and had summons to parliament amongst the Barons from the twenty-third of Edward I., until the seventh of Edward II. inclusive. He died the sixteenth of Edward II., leaving by his wife, daughter of Hugh Bigod,

William, his son and heir, who was also summoned to parliament from the seventeenth of Edward II., to the ninth of Edward III., and died the twelfth of the same reign, without issue, leaving Joan his wife surviving, afterwards married to Nicholas de Cantilupe. Whereupon Gilbert de Umfravill, Earl of Angus, who had married Lucy his sister, came to possess the inheritance.

Which Gilbert de Umfravill, was a descendant of Sir Robert de Umfravill, Lord of Tours and Vian, in the time of the Conqueror, a kinsman to the King, who had a grant of the valley, forest, and lordship of Redesdale in the county of Northumberland.^a This Gilbert had summons to parliament from the second to the eighteenth of Edward II., and by his first wife, the abovementioned Lucy de Kyme, he had issue Gilbert, his successor, and a daughter, Elizabeth, married to

a "Stakeley, in his *Paleog. Brit.*, conjectures the true name of Robin Hood to be Fitz-Ooth, and that he was descended from a Norman chief of that name, who was Lord of Kyme in Lincolnshire immediately after the Conquest; and that his mother was daughter of Payne Beauchamp and Roisia de Vere. The pedigree appears to run in the following manner:—Gilbert de Gaunt, (Lord of Kyme,) had a daughter Maud, wife of Ralph Fitz-Ooth or Oeth, a Norman. Of this marriage was William Fitz-Ooth, who married the daughter of Pagenel Beauchamp and Roisia de Vere of the Oxford family. Robert Fitz-Ooth or Robin Hood was the son by this match.' If this genealogy be right, the Earldom, or rather Barony of Kyme descended to Robert de Umfraville, Earl of Angus, Baron of Prode (Prudhoe) and Redesdale, who was better known as Robin of Redesdale, in the reign of Edward IV." *GENTS. MAG.* 1793, p. 226.

Gilbert de Burdon, whose daughter was the wife of Henry Talboys. He had issue by his second wife, Sir Robert, who died without issue, and Thomas de Umfravill.

Gilbert, succeeding his father, was often in the Scottish wars, and a principal commander at the battle of Durham, where the Scots were totally defeated, and David their king taken prisoner by the English. He died in the fourth year of the reign of Richard II., without issue surviving, whereupon

Thomas, his brother by the half blood, had livery of his inheritance, who by Joan, his wife, had issue two sons, viz. Sir Thomas and Sir Robert de Umfravill. Which

Sir Thomas had issue Gilbert (by some historians called Earl of Kyme), who acted a very distinguished part in the wars of King Henry V. in France. He assisted him with considerable forces at Harfleur^a and Rouen, and was slain at the battle of Bauge, with the Duke of Clarence and others of the English nobility, the tenth of that reign, but left no issue.

Uncle to this last-mentioned Gilbert, was Robert (before noticed), a younger son of Sir Thomas Umfravill, by Joan his wife; which Robert was knight of the garter, and died *s. p.* the fifteenth of Henry VI.^b When, by virtue of an entail, the estates came to Walter, son of Walter Talboys, son of Eliza-

a Speed, in his account of the surrender of Harfleur, has the following paragraph:—"On the twenty-second of September, Gracourt the Governor, with twenty-four selected Captains and Burgesses, came to King Henry, who sate in his pavillon under a cloth of estate, his noblemen about him, and the *Earl of Kyme* on his right hand, bearing his casket, whereupon was an imperial crown, set with stones of great price."

b "John Harding, the Chronicler, (in the time of Henry VI.) is said to have been a Lincolnshire man. In the Yellow Book, in the Exchequer, he is styled 'I. Hardyng de Kyme.' Hence his connection with Robert, Lord Umfraville, under whom he served, and who was Lord of Kyme, in right of his grandfather's marriage with the sister and heiress of William de Kyme." *ARCHÆOLOGIA*, vol. i. p. 100.

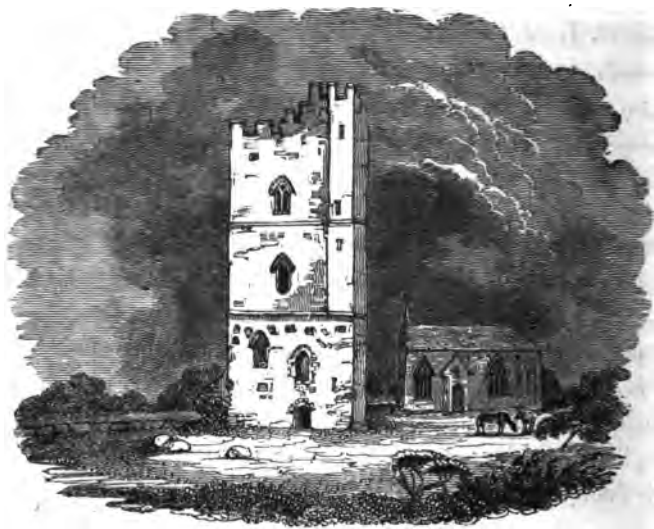
beth, daughter of Elizabeth, sister and heir to Gilbert, Earl of Angus, who deceased the fourth of Richard II.; which Walter then, viz. the fifteenth of Henry VI., had livery of them, his homage being respited. From this Walter descended

Gilbert Talboys, who, A. D. 1529, was made Baron Talboys of Kyme, in the county of Lincoln, by summons to parliament, the twenty-first of Henry VIII. The wife of this Gilbert, Lord Talboys, was Elizabeth,^a daughter of Sir John Blount, by whom he had issue George and Robert, who died *s. p.*, and a daughter, Elizabeth, who married first, Thomas Wimbiſh, esquire; and secondly, Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, but had no issue by either.

On the death of the above Gilbert Talboys, A. D. 1530, this manor, theretofore the caput baroniæ of the old Barons of Kyme, in the division of his inheritance among the heirs general, came to Sir Edward Dymoke, knight, of the ancient family of Dymoke, of Scrivelsby, in the county of Lincoln. It is unnecessary, in this place, to speak of this ancient and honourable family, who have been hereditary Champions of England ever since the time of Richard II. A full account of this family is given in "Banks's History of the House of Mar-

^a This lady is noticed by all the historians of Henry VIII., as being no less celebrated for her personal beauty than for her intellectual acquirements. The following is an extract from the Life and Reign of King Henry VIII., by Edward Lord Herbert, of Cherbury.—"One of the liberties which our King took at his spare time, was to love: for, as all recommendable parts concurred in his person, and they again were exalted in his high dignity and valour, so it must seem less strange, if amid the many fair ladies which lived in his court, he both gave and received temptation. Among whom, because Mistress Elizabeth Blount, daughter of Sir John Blount, knight, was thought, for her rare ornaments of nature and education, to be the beauty and mistress-piece of her time, that entire affection passed betwixt them, as at last she bore him a son, an. 1519. This child proving so equally like to both his parents, that he became the best emblem of their mutual affection, was called Henry Fitz-roy by the King."

mion." The Dymokes appear to have resided here until about the year 1700, and the estate was sold, about A. D. 1730, to the Duke of Newcastle (prime minister). It was afterwards sold to Abraham Hume, esquire, about the year 1748, and is now in the possession of his son, Sir Abraham Hume, baronet, of Wormleybury, Herts.



THE TOWER.

Of "the goodly house and parke," mentioned by Leland in his Itinerary, there is now scarcely any vestige, except a most beautiful stone quadrangular tower, which seems to have formed the northern part of the ancient castle, and of which the above engraving is a correct representation. This tower has in appearance all the freshness of a modern building, and seems to defy the hand of Time. The entrance leads into an apartment, vaulted and groined, having, in the centre of the roof, the arms of Umfravill,—G. a cinquefoil within an orle of crosse crosslets.

This room, lighted only by narrow loop-holes, which serve to shew its thick and massive walls, appears to have been intended as a place of confinement or security.^a Ascending the staircase, we come to a chamber, which seems to have formerly communicated with the body of the house or castle. This is now called the *Chequer Chamber*, probably from the floor being covered with a sort of pebble, called by some chequers. Above this were two other chambers, the situation of the fire places of which may be distinctly seen, but the roof and floors have entirely disappeared. At one angle of the tower, and over the staircase, is an elevated position, ascended by a few steps from the roof, probably used as a watch-tower or signal post: from the summit is a very extensive prospect.

The hall or castle was pulled down between the years 1720 and 1725, to build farm-houses; at which time a very handsome chimney-piece of carved stone, was sold to Mr. Chaplin of Blankney.

The old hall stood on the south of the tower to which it was attached, and was doubtless a large and handsome building. It is much to be lamented that some drawing of this ancient hall was not taken before it was destroyed; for how would it gratify an antiquary, to see even sketches of those celebrated baronial seats, of whose magnificence he has heard and read, but which he can now only delineate in his imagination.

A great part of the moat is still full of water, and its course may be traced quite round. A few years ago there were some inhabitants who remembered the remains of a draw-bridge;

^a "At Tomarton in Gloucestershire, anciently the seat of the Rivers, is a dungeon thirteen or fourteen feet deep; about four feet high are iron rings fastened to the wall, which was probably to tie offending villanes to, as all lords of manors had this power over their villanes (or saccage tenants), and had all of them, no doubt, such places for their punishment." ANT. REP. vol. i, p. 71.

and the ruins of a building like an observatory, on the top of which, according to tradition, ladies were placed to be spectators of the bull-baiting, a pretty general diversion in former times.

Had the account of this place been written fifty years since, how much might have been gleaned relative to it, which we must now, however reluctantly, lose for ever. It is little more than a century since it was inhabited by some of the Dymokes.

The following names of fields, point out the baronial and monastic character of the place. The Deer Park,—The Abbey Yard,—The Boenferies,—and The Vachery at North Kyme.

THE PRIORY.

Before giving what few notices we have been able to collect respecting this religious house, which was a Priory of Black or Regular Canons, of the order of St. Augustine, it may not be inapplicable to introduce an account of that order; extracted from Bishop Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*, wherein it is said that, "Regular Canons were such as lived under some rule; they were a less strict sort of Religious than the Monks, but lived together under one roof, had a common dormitory and refectory, and were obliged to observe the statutes of their order. The chief rule for these Canons was that of St. Austin, who was made Bishop of Hippo, A. D. 395. But they were but little known till the tenth or eleventh century, were not brought into England till after the conquest, and seem not to have obtained the name of Austin Canons till some years after.

"Their habit was a long black cassock, with a white rochet over it, and over that a black cloak and hood. The Monks were always shaved, but these Canons wore beards, and caps on their heads."

The Priory at Kyme was founded by Philip de Kyme, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, about the year 1170; it was enlarged by his son Simon de Kyme, and afterwards by one of the Talboys family. The Canons of this house had lands in Tigthorpe of the value of £40. a year; also in Billingham, the gift of Peter de Belingay, and in Osbournby, Newton, and Horbling, in this county. They were likewise Patrons of the churches of Northolm, Ewerby, Croft, and Thorpe, and had a pension out of the church of Wainfleet All Saints, also in this county. At the dissolution they were possessed of lands and rents worth £101. 0s. 4d. per annum, Dugdale; £138. 4s. 9d. Speed; and £140. 0s. 0d. Leland.^a

Ralph Fairfax, the last Prior, was elected to that dignity on the twenty-seventh day of March, 1511, it being then vacant by the death of Thomas Deye. On the sixth of July, 1539, he with nine Canons surrendered his Priory, and had a pension of £30. per annum assigned him, which he enjoyed in the year 1553; in which year there remained in charge £8. in annuities and corrodiess, and the following pensions, John Fawell, £5. 6s. 8d. and Robert Ellingtonne, £5.^b The site was granted the thirty-third of Henry III. to Thomas, Earl of Rutland, and Robert Tirwhit.^c

All that now remains of the Priory is the south front of the present church or chapel, which is shown in the back ground of our engraving of the tower. Behind the chapel are evident marks of extensive buildings, and the remains of a wall and moat. The field is still called the Abbey yard.

THE CHURCH OR CHAPEL

being a very large and inconvenient place of worship, was, in

^a Tanners's Not. Mon. p. 275.

^b Willis's Abbeys, vol. ii. p. 112.

^c Tanner's Not. Mon. p. 275.

the year 1805, in a great measure taken down and the present edifice erected, which consists of only one aisle, with a porch on the south side, and a small bell in an arch at the west end. The interior is neatly fitted up, but only half of the font, which was octagonal, remains; it is placed against the west wall, has a plain round shaft, and is adorned with blank shields.

The following inscriptions, &c., noticed by Mr. Hollis, are now, with the exception of the first mentioned one, entirely demolished.

Tumulus marmoreus ære fixus.

Gilbert Lord Tailboys, Lord of Kyme, married Elizabeth the daughter of Sr John Blount, of Kialest in Shropshire, Knt. & died 15^o April, A'no 1590.

Arg. a saltier on a chief G. 3 escallopes of the first.—*Tailboys*.
Nebuly of 6 pieces, or. and sa.—*Blount*.

Tailboys' crest, a bull's head coupéd.

Party per pale, G. & B. a bull passant, arg.

Tumuli lapidei cum ære.

Mary the wife of Thomas Whichcoote, gentleman, died 16^o Febr. A'no 1591.

Empaled.	{	Q'terly.	{ Ermine, 2 sangliers trippant, G.— <i>Whichcoote</i> .
			{ G. 3 lapwings, or.— <i>Tirehit</i> .
	{		{ G. a cheife indented, or.— <i>Gronall</i> .
		Q'terly.	{ Arg. on a bend sa, 3 owles of the first. — <i>Savile of Newton</i> .
		{ An escocheon & orle of martlets,—a bend,—in cheife an eagle disp ^d .— on a bend,— 3 escallops.	

John the sonne of Thomas Whichcoote and Mary, deceased
15^o Sept. A'no 1588, Ætat. 8^o.

G. a chevron between 10 crosses botony, or.—*Kyme.*

Effigies viri & mulieris in fenestra occidentali gestantium manibus, arma predicta, & super tunicas.

Thomas Weston pincerna [ut dicitur] prioratus cum clave sculpt. in introitu porticus.

Robertus Cressi.

The inscription formerly on Lord Talboys' tomb, is now fixed on the north wall. It is as follows:—

Here lyeth Gybert Talboys, lordc Talboys, lordc of Kyme,
wyche married Elizabeth Blount, one of the daughters of Sir
John Blount, of Rypley in the counte of Shropshire, knight,
wyche lordc Talboys departed fourth of this world the xv. day
of Aprill, A. D. m^o CCCC^o LXX^o, whose
soulle God pardon. Amen.

In laying the foundation of the north wall, at the time the chapel was contracted, the vault belonging to the above family was met with, wherein were found four leaden coffins, one containing the remains of a full grown person, the others children. One of the smaller coffins had by some accident been opened, and its contents were consequently decayed:—another was opened by the workmen, and the body of a child, about five or six years old, was found therein in the finest preservation; it was immersed in some kind of spirituous liquid, and had all the appearance of a recent interment:—these were, in all probability, children of Gilbert Lord Talboys, whose remains, doubtless, occupied the large coffin.

There is another mural monument to the memory of Mr. Marmaduke Dickenson, which deserves insertion as recording an act of great charity to his native village. He was the son of the parish clerk, and is said to have been originally put an apprentice to a tailor at the expense of the parish. He tra-

velled up to London, where by honest industry he acquired considerable property. This monument, which is on the west wall, is supported by Death and Time, and bears the following inscription:—

To the Memory of Mr. Marmaduke Dickenson, Citizen of London, who dyed January y^e 9th, 1711, and by his last will gave to y^e poore of South Kyme two hun^d pounds, to be paid unto y^e Minister and Church-wardens within twelve months after his decess, and to be by them laid out in a purchase of free land, and y^e yearly income of y^e same to be by them distributed unto y^e poorst sorte of people of South Kyme, and accounted for unto their Jury upon December y^e 21st day for ever.

Kind reader stay, goe not away,
Your silent lectures take;
Redeem your time, now in your prime,
That may you happie make:
Cease not to pray, both nighte and day,
God would repentance give,
That when you dye, eternally
You may a crown receive.

Beside the above there are some very old inscriptions on the floor, but so defaced as not to be intelligible, and in the church-yard are several graves covered with long flat stones, each bearing a cross, which are supposed to be the graves of the ancient monks.

The exterior architecture of this building is quite plain, except on the south side, which, as beforementioned, is part of the old Priory, and contains some handsome gothic windows, as also a finely ornamental niche. The porch is rather elegant, the inside arch particularly fine, the outside one plain, having over it a neat niche, wherein are seated two figures, the upper parts of which are demolished.

The living is a Donative in the gift of the proprietor, Sir Abraham Hume, baronet. Present Incumbent, the Rev. J. Bellaman, F. S. A.

The registers commence in the year 1654, and contain several notices of the Dymoke family.

In the civil wars of Charles I. this part of Lincolnshire seems to have been considerably involved in the troubles of the times. The following extracts from an old parish account book cannot but prove interesting to the antiquarian reader.

“ 1640—For the King's provision, £2. 17s. 2d. For the want of our artillerie, 5s. For carrying Anderson and the two traine men to Sleford, one day, 4s. 2d. For 6 soldiers' dinners at Sleford, 6s. For a cart out a quarter to remove the King from Grantham, £1. 4s. 3d. For 6 horses hay 2 nights at Grantham, 23. Oct. to remove the King, 3s. 1641—For watchmen upon the feast night, 6d. 1643—Paid to Rob. Dyston for a porkit that went to Sleford to Colonel Bawde's army, 16s. Paid Roger Hall for worke about Coronel Cromwelle's business, 1s. 10d. Spent at Jo. Blackets 27. April with the Parliament troops, 2s. 10d. Paid to Mr. Browne for 16 ducks that went in provision for Coron. King's army at Newark, 8s. To T. Coy for 2 st. of cheese and 20 lbs. of butter, 8s. 1644—For the carriage of a warrant to Howel for the bull-works, 3d. Paid for my Lord of Manchester's post charges, upon his journey to Lincoln, 8d. Given to 2 sick soldiers that came from Rolingbroke castle, 8d. Paid for ale that was spent the night that our neighbours were first carried to Newark to prison, 3s. Paid to Roger Blackwell for going with the provision to Hoff on the Hill, to Col. Rossiter's qrs. 1s. 6d. Our charges about the provision carrying to Sleford, and from Sleford to Hoff on the Hill, 3 men and 3 horses 2 days and 1 night, 6s. 3d. Paid for a strike of acorns for the Sequestrator's swine, 1s. 1645—Paid for provision for the maimed prisoners that was brought to towne by the King's forces, June 19., 3s. 10d. Given to our soldiers at the delivery, to their Capt. 6s. Paid for provision for them when they were in the church, 8d. 1646—Given to the Qr. Master to take us of twentie men, being charged by the Chief Constable's warrant to q'rter forty, £2. My charges to Sleford to give an account of the grievances we had by the soldiers under the command of Major Scroope, 1s. 6d. Paid for the carriage of a warrant to Howel, which was to remove Sleford market into Quarrington field, 3d. Paid for bread and tobacco that the watchman had when he watched the Jepsies, 6d.

In various similar charges occur the names of Colonels Rossiter and Rainsborrow, Major Twissiton, Captains Harrington, Tomlinson, and Cambridge, and Lieutenant Colonel Harring. But enough has been extracted to show the unset-

ted military aspect of the times. More than half the parish expenses of that day arose from finding soldiers in arms, watching prisoners, issuing notices, and collecting taxes, imposed, as it might happen, by the King or Parliament.

KYME EAU OR EE.

Respecting Kyme Eau, which now forms part of the navigable canal leading from Sleaford to the river Witham, we find the following intimations in Dugdale's History of Embanking and Drainage.

"In 16. E. III. (1340), Gilbert de Umfraville, Earl of Anegos, exhibited a petition to the King, whereby he represented that, whereas there was a certain water, called the Ee of Kyme, betwixt Docdyke on the east part, and Brent-fen on the south (within his province), which did run through the lands of the said Earl for the space of six miles in length; but was so obstructed and stopt by reason of mud and other filth, that ships laden with wine, wool, and other merchandize, could neither pass through the same in summer nor winter, as they had used to do, except it were scourred and cleansed, and the banks so raised that the tops of them might appear to mariners passing that way, whensoever the marshes there should be overflowed. And that as the said Earl had, for the common benefit of those parts, bestowed no small costs towards the repair of the said place, called the Ee, and heightening of those banks; so he intended to be at much more, in case the said King would please to grant unto him and his heirs for ever, certain customs of the merchandize passing in ships through the same; to have and receive in form abovesaid, viz. for every sack of wool, twopence,—for every tun of wine, fourpence,—for every pipe of wine, twopence,—for every four quarters of corn, a penny,—for every ship laden with cattle,

fourpence,—and for every ship laden with other commodities than aforesaid, twopence. Wherupon the said King directed his precept to William Frank, then his Escheator in this county, that he should forthwith make inquisition, and certify whether it could be to the damage of him the said King or his subjects, if the said customs were granted unto the before mentioned Gilbert, for the purposes above expressed. And accordingly the said Escheator did certify that it would not be prejudicial to the said King or any others to make such a grant."

"In 50. E. III., there was a presentment exhibited against the said Gilbert for taking toll on all vendible commodities, carried in boats from Boston to Kesteven, whereunto he pleaded that he did take that toll for scouring the channel, called the Ee of Kyme, which passed through the midst of his manor or lordship of Kyme betwixt Docdyke and Brent-fen, to the river Witham, and was the very water specified in the presentment, and there called *Home milne dyke* on both sides; which channel was then so filled with mud, that ships and boats could not pass through it, until that he the said Gilbert, by virtue of the King's writ *ad quod damnum*, did cleanse and scour the same; and by his royal charter granted license to the said Gilbert and his heirs to take toll of such vessels bringing those commodities."

The fens of Kyme were included in the grand scheme of drainage undertaken solely by Robert, Earl of Lindsey, Lord High Chamberlain of England, in the eleventh year of Charles I. (A. D. 1635.) The abovenamed work contains the following account relative thereto.

"George, Earl of Rutland, and the other Commissioners of Sewers, met at Sleaford on the 2^d. June next following, and proceeded to treat with Lord Lindsey for that purpose; they

agreed with him to accept 24,000 acres in recompense of his charges; the work to be perfected in six years after the feast of St. Michael next following; these 24,000 acres were to be indifferently allotted out of the several fens, and as soon as 10,000 acres were to be drained, he was to have his proportion.

"This Lindsey Level, as it was called, extended from Kyme Eau southwards to the river Glen, and contained 36,000 acres.

"Out of South Kyme fen 550 acres were allotted to the Earl. At length the said Earl and his participants (having expended no less than £45,000) did inclose, build, sow, and reap two years without disturbance. At the end of the third year, divers clamorous petitions were exhibited to the parliament, by the country people (in which Dame Dymoke of Kyme consented); whereupon, after examination of witnesses, orders were granted from both houses to quiet the possession of the said Earl and his participants, and to secure their crops then upon the land. Nevertheless the petitioners, in contempt of all, entered and destroyed the drains and buildings, and also the crops then ready to be reapt, to a very great value; and have ever since held the possession, to the great decay and ruin of those costly works, and exceeding discommodity to all that part of the country."

In addition to the various distinguished personages, formerly residing at or connected with Kyme, it remains for us to give some account of

ANN ASCOUGH OR ASKEW,

the martyr, who was burnt at Smithfield in the reign of Henry VIII. "Her birth (says Speed) was worshipful and education accordingly. She was bestowed in marriage unto John Kyme, a gentleman in Lincolnshire, and commended by Bale for her rare wit and elegant beauty."

This lady was the daughter of Sir William Ascough, of Kelsey in this county, knight, and married to Mr. Kyme in obedience to her father's desire or command. Her falling from popery so offended her husband, that he drove her violently out of his house; after which she went to court, where on the Queen's side she was much esteemed for her wit, beauty, learning, and religion.^a She is said to have resided at Austhorpe, or Ewerby Thorpe, till her imprisonment, and the following extract from the proceedings of Privy Council, fo. 224. will clearly shew by what means that was effected.

"At Greenwich, June 19th, 1546. Thomas Keyme of Lincolnshire, who had married one Anne Ascue, called hether, and likewise his wife, who refused him to be her hosbande withoute any honeste allegacion, was appointed to returne to his countrey tyll he shoulde be eftsoones sent for; and for that shee was very obstynate and headdy in resonyng of matters of relygeone, wherein she shewed herselfe to be of a naughty oppinyon: seeinge no perswasione of good reason could take place she was sent to Newegate to remain there to answer to the lawe; like as also one — White, who attempted to make an erronyous booke was sente to Newegate, after debatyng with him of the matter, who shewed himselfe of a wrong oppinyon concernynge the blessed sacramente."^b

She was removed from Newgate to the Tower, and there put upon the rack, and finally burned as beforesaid at Smithfield. The Lord Chancellor Wriotheley, the old Duke of Norfolk, the Earl of Bedford, and the Lord Mayor of London, were present at her execution, and offered her the King's pardon if she would recant.^c

a Magna Britannia, vol. ii. p. 1493. b Archæologia, vol. xviii. p. 129.

c Magna Britannia, vol. ii. p. 1493.

On the death of Gilbert, Lord Talboys, when South Kyme descended to the Dymokes, the manor of North Kyme came to Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, who married Elizabeth, the widow of Thomas Wimbish, esquire, and daughter of the above Lord Talboys. In the year 1724 it was in the possession of Earl Fitzwilliam, and is now the property of Mrs. Ibbetson.

The parish of South Kyme and its hamlet of North Kyme, taken together, contain nearly nine thousand acres, which is tolerably well drained. The roads are much improved and the estate possesses the advantage of a navigable canal passing through it. Some years ago, like most other lands in this part of Lincolnshire, it was subject to frequent inundations, which rendered the labours of the agriculturist very uncertain and abortive. The great improvement, however, effected in the drainage of this part of the county, within the last few years, has given a feeling of greater security in the produce of the soil.

The population of South Kyme has not increased so much as its hamlet since the time of Queen Elizabeth, for we find there were then in South Kyme sixty-three families, and in North Kyme twenty-five. The return in the year 1821 states the former place to contain eighty-nine families, constituting a population of five hundred and sixteen, and the latter to have fifty-three families, making a population of two hundred and eighty-three.

In North Kyme was a Roman encampment, the site of which is still very traceable, being situated in the direct line of the Roman road leading from Sleaford through the parish of Ewerby, where it is clearly discernible, to Horn-castle. The great Roman canal, called the Carr Dyke, between the high lands and the fens, also passes through this hamlet, as well as South Kyme.

LEASINGHAM.

THIS village, which lies in the hundred of Flaxwell and two miles north of Sleaford, is traversed by the turnpike road leading from London to Hull, by way of Lincoln.

The earliest information we have of this place is obtained from Domesday Book, in which record it is thus spoken of:—
“Land of the Bishop of Lincoln. Manor. In *Lessingham* Barne had six carucates of land to be taxed. Land to six ploughs. Adam, a vassal of the Bishop's, has there two ploughs, and sixteen villanes, and one sokeman, and four bordars, having four ploughs and thirty acres of meadow. Value in King Edward's time six pounds, now one hundred shillings.”—“Land of Geoffry Alselin. Soke. In *Leuesingham* six carucates of land to be taxed, Land to six ploughs. There are thirty acres of meadow.”

In the reign of Henry III. Hugh de Ringesdon held one knight's fee in Levesingham, of the Bishop of Lincoln.^a

The manor appears to have been in the hands of David de Fletwicke, whose arms, as will be hereafter seen, were painted in the windows of the church, in the year 1305, for we find that “David de Fletwicke held Ringsden and Leasingham with free warren, in the thirty-third of Edward I.”^b We find it possessed by a descendant of Sir Richard York, knight, sometime Mayor of the Staple at Calais, who died A. D. 1448,

^a Testa de Nevill, p. 304.

^b Hundred Rolls, ch. 42.

previous to the year 1592,^a with the female branches of which family it still remains.

We derive the name *Leasingham* from the Saxon *leaz*, a field or pasture, *ing*, a meadow, and *ham*, a village; that is to say, a village situated amidst pastures and meadows.

There were formerly two churches in this parish, viz. the south rectory, dedicated to St. Andrew, and the north rectory, to St. John the Baptist. It is now unknown at what time the latter church was destroyed or disused, neither is it positively known when the two rectories were united. Carlisle, in his *Topographical Dictionary*, says the union took place in the year 1726, but we are inclined to think not till about A. D. 1754, at which time the incumbent is said to be rector of the north and south rectories. The site of the north church cannot now be traced, but it is supposed to have stood on the hill, at the north end of the town, not far from the parsonage house; near to which, in a pasture (where it has evidently been removed), is the base of a cross, which, most probably, once stood either in the church-yard or very near to it.

The south rectorial church, which now serves for the whole parish, is remarkable for its beautiful and interesting steeple, which is viewed to great advantage from the neighbouring hills on the north and south. The church itself is small, and has suffered the loss of its choir or chancel, of which the foundations may yet be traced. The nave has only one aisle, on the south, from which it is divided by three pointed arches, springing from pillars handsomely moulded. The only entrance now is through a porch on the south side, the opposite door being walled up; but, originally, there was an entrance

^a Harl. MSS., No. 1550.

through the steeple, as at Sleaford, which was afterwards disused, probably for the sake of warmth; the westerly winds being by far the most frequent, so that a door in that quarter is apt to expose the interior of a small church to much cold and inconvenience, a circumstance which has been generally overlooked in modern buildings, from a notion of regularity.

The tower of this church is very large and well built, exhibiting a style of architecture of nearly the same date as that at Sleaford; a period when the circular or Norman style was beginning to give place to the pointed or Gothic. The belfry windows, in the upper story, are peculiarly elegant and curious, part of the stone work being formed into a correspondence with the timber frames for the bells within. The spire is of a much later style than the tower, and was probably raised about the middle of the fourteenth century; it is taller and better proportioned than that of Sleaford, rather resembling St. Mary's at Stamford, and is square at the base, covering the whole tower, which form characterizes all the older class of spires. The tower contains four bells.

The only thing that claims particular attention in the interior of this edifice, is its beautiful octagonal font, which, although it escaped the notice of that great searcher into the works of olden times, the learned and laborious Gough, we conceive to be as deserving of description as those of Ancaster and Willoughby, which have been recorded by him. This at Leasingham is very ancient, and is supported by an octagonal shaft or pedestal, and is enriched on each of its sides with shields, which rest on brackets having devices at their terminations. These shields have all different figures, &c., cut on them in alto relievo, two of which are defaced; we shall attempt to describe those on the other six, which are highly hieroglyphical, but shall leave the deciphering thereof to

such as are better instructed in such matters to exercise their judgment upon. One shield has two female figures preceded by a man blowing a horn,—another, a child between two females and a man,—a third, a man with a staff in his hand, riding upon an ass,—another, a man walking, holding in his right hand a sort of double staff twisted about with a cord,—the fifth, a man blowing a horn, having one child on his right and two on his left, with a figure representing the sun over the heads of the two children,—and the sixth shield has a man between two stars, sitting apparently on a rainbow, under which, as if acting as supporters, are two angels. These figures have formerly been gilded over, which gilding shows itself in some places, through the thick coat of yellow or white wash that has at various times been laid on, at the discretion and according to the taste of different churchwardens.

The church is wholly seated with pews, and the pulpit is dated 1672. Near this pulpit still remains an iron skeleton frame for an hour glass.^a

Mr. Hollis says that, when he visited the church of Lesingham cum Roxham, the east window, right of the chancel, was ornamented with the following bearings:—

Chequy, B. & or.—*Warren.*

Arg. 2 Lyons passant, sa.—*Fletewicke.*

Or. 3 chevrons, G.—*Clare.*

He also speaks of a north window, having one armorial bearing, and a label containing part of the name of the person

^a With respect to the use of the hour glass in churches, it was customary for the length of the sermon to be regulated by it; for when the priest ascended the pulpit, he or his clerk turned the glass and when it had run its time his sermon was to be concluded.

who gave the window, whom we hesitate not to say was David de Fletwicke.

Arg. 2 lyons passant, sa.—*Fletewicke.*

David de ————— gere, me fecit in honore
beæ Mariæ.^a

A handsome alabaster slab to the memory of Caroline Medlycot, who died in the year 1737, and one of black marble to the widow of the Rev. Jonathan Birch, without date, are the only monuments now in the church that we consider worthy of notice.

The figures of two angels, with sickles in their hands, are very appropriately stationed, one on each side, at the entrance of the porch, in allusion to that passage of scripture, "I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." MATTHEW, ch. xiii. v. 30.

The following list of the Incumbents is principally taken from the registers, with as much correctness as such sources afford. Sir John Hayford Thorold is patron of the living.

A. D. 1280.—Roger de Threkingham.—Mediety,

1394.—Will. de Ketell.—Vic.

1535.—X'pofrus Huchynson, Rector australi p't eccl'ie
ib'm.

1535.—Joh'nes Green, Rector ex p't bor' eccl'ie ib'm.

1597.—Mr. Morice, parson of Leasingham.

—Thomas Crook, parson of Leasingham australis.

1614.—William Green, ditto.

^a Harl. MSS., No. 6829, p. 327.

- A. D. 1616.—John Morice, Parson of Leasingham australis.
 1643.—William Eves, B. D.,^a ditto.
 1661.—Jasper Justice, Rector.
 1682.—Jeffery Eves, ditto.
 1694.—Nathan Drake, Rector of the south Rectory of Leasingham.
 1696.—Matthew Smith, ditto.
 1754.—John Nevill Birch, Rector of the north and south Rectories.
 1782.—Thomas Taylor, ditto.
 1783.—Friskney Gunniss, the present Rector.

At the end of an ancient building, situated on the hill at the north end of the town, is this inscription,—*I. E. P. aspice viator et memento te mortalem esse, Anno Domini 1687*. One Poyntell lived here, and *I. E. P.* most probably were the initials of him and his wife. The date 1650, is also carved on the chimney. There is likewise another ancient house in the centre of the town, on the east of the turnpike road, with a blank shield in the centre.

The site of the mansion formerly inhabited by the Yorks, is readily known by the remains of the stone pillars on each side the carriage entrance from the Sleaford road, the coach house, extensive walled gardens, &c., which carry abundant proof of the wealth of that ancient family.

Sir William York resided in this hall, previous to his removing to Burton Pedwardine in this county, where he died A. D. 1681, and in which church he lies buried, having a

^a William Eves, B. D., of St. Mary's hall, Oxford, A. D. 1635, wrote "The translation of the Book of Nature into the use of Grace," and a sermon at Oxford, 1633.

mural monument still remaining to his memory. William, a son of the above Sir William York, appears to have occupied this mansion at the time the disturbances are said to have taken place therein, the account of which is still partially known by most, and faithfully believed by several, of the inhabitants of this and the neighbouring villages.

A narrative of the disturbances above alluded to, was sent by Mr. William Wyche, a resident of this parish, and Rector of Sleaford from A. D. 1660 to 1682, to a Mr. J. Richardson, fellow of Emanuel college, Cambridge, and is given at length in the "Continuation of Remarkable and True Stories of Apparitions and Witchcraft;" by Henry More, D. D., published along with Joseph Glanvil's Evidence concerning the same. The story being very diffuse, and, in our opinion, uninteresting to the generality of readers, we shall only give the substance thereof in as limited a form as possible, and refer those who feel desirous of perusing the whole, to the above work. It is entitled, "A true and faithful narrative of the disturbance which was in the house of Sir William York, in the parish of Lessingham in Lincolnshire;" and commences in the following manner:—"In May 1679, Sir William York being from home, there was a great noise made by the lifting up of the latch of the outmost door, which continued with great quickness and noise for the space of two or three hours, till betwixt ten and eleven o'clock in the night. His lady then being at home with few servants, apprehended it to be thieves, and thereupon they went to the door and spake to them, and afterwards winded a horn and raised the town, and upon the coming in of the town the noise ceased and they heard no more of it till May following; and then, Sir William being at London, the same noise was made at the door as before, for two or three nights together, and then they began to believe it to be occasioned by some extraordinary means. This was heard alike by twen-

ty several persons then in the family, who looked out of the windows over the door, heard the noise, but saw nothing."

The account then goes on to state that about a month after, when Sir William was at home, the noise was heard very distinctly several times in the night. From this time to the month of October following, this "aërial sprite" appears to have continued to annoy the family in various ways, for we find that besides beating at the doors, windows, ceilings, &c., the chairs were taken from their places and fixed in the middle of the hall, which, on being set right again, were quickly removed into a passage between the hall and kitchen: a lighted candle also, which Sir William had at another time placed in the same room, was extinguished, and the candlestick conveyed into the said passage. The noise is said to have sometimes resembled the carpenters and plumbers, who were there doing some repairs, at work, "insomuch that the head carpenter said that if he had not known his servants to be in the house, he should have thought they had been chopping."

The noises, &c., were repeated almost every night till the sixteenth of October, at which time Sir William's attendance being required in parliament, he left home, intending that if the same continued his family should follow him; "but by God's blessing, from that time to this it was never heard more."

The learned Doctor (More) after having given this tale of witchcraft (as he supposes), makes several remarks, by which he endeavours to prove the reality of the power of witches, &c. It appears one Follet,^a a cobbler, who was accounted an

a This Knight of St. Crispin, as appears from the same work, was also suspected of sending a flaxen-haired dæmon to torment one Alice Medcalf, the daughter of a farmer residing at Leasingham. This tale, like the account of the disturbances in the hall, is full of ridiculous nonsense, such as the turning of new milk furmenty into a hard curd, and the dish dancing about on the table

astrologer, and then living at Leasingham, was suspected of causing these disturbances.

The last-named Sir William York died at Leasingham, on the second day of January, 1725, and lies buried in the church of Burton Pedwardine.

There is a beautiful spring and cold bath in a field adjoining, and to the north of, the site of the residence of the above family.

The parish contains, exclusive of its hamlet of Roxham, eighteen hundred acres principally under tillage. The moor, which lies to the east and abutting on the Sleaford navigation, is traversed by the turnpike road leading from Sleaford to Tattershall, and, previous to the enclosure, which took place so lately as the year 1820, was an unprofitable waste of upwards of three hundred acres. Across this moor lay a branch of the Hermen Street, which was very traceable and distinct so long as it remained in its uncultivated state.

From the Harleian MSS. it is seen that in "Lessingham utraque rect." were twenty-two families in the time of Queen Elizabeth. The return in 1821 states the number of families to be fifty-six, making a total population of two hundred and fifty-nine.

We cannot take leave of Leasingham without recording our opinion on the general appearance of the place in these days, which is, that we entirely agree with the almost uniform testimony of all who are familiar with this part of the county, that it is the most inviting of any village in the neighbourhood of Sleaford.

—the chairs placing in the middle of the room, garnished with the flour sieve, cut full of holes, &c.,—the taking away and bringing back several articles of wearing a pparel,—the changing of the barrel spigots, &c., &c.

ROXHAM OR ROXHOLM.

This place, which is called in Domesday *Rochesham*, and in the Harleian MSS. *Roxanne*, is a hamlet in the parish of Leasingham, situate about a mile north of the church.

We feel quite incompetent to assign a reason for the name of this hamlet, for the adjunct *ror* or *roch*, which we conceive to be intended for a rock, cannot by any subtilties be made to apply to the locality of *Roxham*; though certainly the ground is very steep and high on each side of the road leading through the hamlet, and stone is immediately below the sod, yet we can scarcely call it a rock.

Domesday Book has the two following notices relative to this hamlet:—"Land of Alured of Lincoln. Manor. In *Rochesham* Alden had two carucates of land and six oxgangs to be taxed. Land to as many ploughs and oxen. Ralph, a vassal of Alured's, has there one plough and a half, and eight villanes with two ploughs and forty acres of meadow. Value in King Edward's time forty shillings, now fifty shillings."—"Land of Geoffry Alselin. Soke. In *Rochesham* three carucates of land and six oxgangs to be taxed, Land to as many ploughs and oxen."

The manor appears to have belonged to one John de Baioc, about the year 1270, for we find at that time, that "Radolph de Gonsil held in Roxham two parts of one knight's fee, of John de Baioc, of the ancient feoffment."^a

^a Testa de Nevill, p. 306.

" Philip le Despenser, Lord of Goushele or Goushill, co. Linc. died the seventh of Edward II. seised of two parts of the manor of Roxham in Lincolnshire."^a

Another extract informs us that in the year 1417, " Sir John Basynges, knight, was made to shew unto the court by what service he held one carucate of land in Roxham, in the county of Lincoln, free of the King."^b

We are unable to trace the descent of the manor after the year 1573, when it is said that " John Bushy, esquire, and others, were made to shew by what title they held the manor of Roxham alias Roxholme, in the county of Lincoln."^c

In this hamlet was formerly a chapel or oratory, called Roxanne, annexed to the church at Leasingham, which was standing in the year 1560; but when destroyed, or where situated, is now unknown. The former event, however, most probably occurred very early in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and the site of the chapel is supposed to be in a small pasture on the east of an ancient family house, and adjoining the garden wall. Large stones have been dug up in this field, which had evidently been used in some building of no minor importance; but scarcely a vestige is left to guide an inquiring eye, and were we to venture an opinion on the situation of this chapel we should be led to fix it to the west of the before-noticed mansion, immediately adjoining the garden of the same, built up in the wall of which is what appears to be a stone coffin, but of a very small size.

The family house above alluded to, although apparently not so old as to have been the residence of Sir John Basynges,

a Escheat Rolls.

b Originalia Exchequer.

c Ibid.

knight, so early as the year 1417, yet carries abundant marks of the style in use in Queen Elizabeth's time, and was most probably the dwelling of John Bushy, esquire: afterwards it became the residence of Mr. William Thompson, gent. who was in the commission of the peace, and, in the time of Oliver Cromwell, married several couples from the towns and villages adjacent. This mansion retains much of the character of former times, and has many charms for an antiquary: a very fine old knurled and knotted mulberry tree, with some yew trees of considerable bulk, and a rookery upon some very large though almost branchless trunks of timber trees, add much interest to this retired scene.

The population has scarcely varied since Elizabeth's days, for then the return states this place to have contained eleven families, and in the year 1821 there were only fourteen, making together a population of eighty-seven.

Mr. Pendock Barry Neale, is lord of the manor and sole proprietor of the hamlet.

QUARRINGTON.

QUARRINGTON is a small village in the hundred of Asward-hurn, situated about one mile south-west of Old Sleaford, to which it is supposed to have been always the mother parish. The Domesday Book contains several notices relative to this place, which are of sufficient interest to merit transcribing.

“Land of the Bishop of Lincoln. Free. In *Corninctune* Bardi had nine carucates of land and two oxgangs and a half. Land to nine ploughs and as many oxen. There are there thirty-two sokemen and fifteen bordars with seven ploughs and a half, and two mills of sixteen shillings, and sixty acres of meadow. In this soke Osmund has two ploughs in the demesne, and it is worth sixty shillings. Likewise in this soke Hugh Rufus has one carucate of land, and one plough in the demesne, and it is worth twenty-five shillings.”

“Land of St. Benedict of Ramsey. Manor. In *Corninctune* St. Benedict of Ramsey had and has one carucate of land and two oxgangs to be taxed. Land to as many ploughs and oxen. There is now in the demesne one plough, and three villanes, and one bordar, and one sokeman, with one plough. There are two churches and one mill of twenty-one shillings and fourpence, and fourteen acres of meadow. Value in King Edward’s time forty shillings, now four pounds.”

“Land of Ogerius Brito. Soke in *Corninctune*. There are four villanes with half a plough, and five acres of meadow, and eight acres of coppice wood.”

“Claims in Kesteven. In *Corninctune* Waldin Brito claims

fourteen oxgangs of land of the Abbot of Ramsey, but the jury of the wapentake declare he does not claim rightly."—"In the same *Corninctune* Bishop Remegius claims the land of Archil as possessing it in mortgage, but he himself denies it, and he holds it of the King."

The next accounts, in point of antiquity, are obtained from the Testa de Nevill, in which this place is then called *Quer-
rington*.

"Hugh de Vedasto held in Querrington and Evedon one knight's fee of the Bishop of Lincoln, and the said Bishop of the King.

"Also Galfrid Selvayn held in the same place of the Abbot of Ramsey, ten bovates of land, for eight of which he rendered the service of the eighth part of a knight's fee, and the Abbot holds it of the King of the ancient feoffment."^a

Part of this parish appears to have belonged to the Abbey of Ramsey for a considerable time after the reign of Henry III., when Testa de Nevill was taken, probably till the dissolution of religious houses. Leland, in the following extract, tells us who was the donor, but leaves us in the dark as to the year that the lands in Quarrington were given to the above Abbey. "On the eleventh day before the calends of February, Job, our brother, died, who gave to us (Ramsey Abbey) Quenton, Cranewelle, and Sleaford."^b

With respect to the possessions of the Bishop of Lincoln in this place, it will not be unreasonable to suppose that they were alienated by Henry Holbeach, Bishop of Lincoln, to the Duke of Somerset, at the same time as the manor of Sleaford, and that they have descended in the same manner to the Earl of Bristol, who is now almost sole proprietor of this parish.

^a Testa de Nevill, p. 321. ^b Leland's Collectanea, vol. i. part 2, p. 587.

After stating that in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, (A. D. 1535) *Quaryngton* is another orthographical variation in the name of this place, we shall attempt an explanation of the etymology thereof. Taking the ancient name of *Corninctune* for our guide, we should be led to derive it from the words *corn* and the common termination of *tone* or *tune* to villages generally; i. e. a village of corn and arable land especially: or, perhaps, we should be tempted to assign as a reason for the same, the abundant production in the fields and by the road sides in this parish, almost exclusively, of a beautiful cornflower. But following the more modern appellation of *Quarrington*, we assign as a reason thereof, the stony nature of the principal part of the parish, which is covered with an exceeding thin layer of earth, and the appearance also of some ancient pits or quarries, from which stone has been obtained; and of which almost all the home fences, and dwellings also, in the village have been builded; then it will be a village situated on a stony foundation.

Of the two churches mentioned in Domesday as being in Quarrington, (one of which we feel persuaded stood in the hamlet of Old Sleaford,) nothing now remains. The one now standing in Quarrington serves as the parish church for both this place and Old Sleaford: it is a rectory and dedicated to St. Botolph. Patron, the Earl of Bristol.

To this rectory the vicarage of Old Sleaford has been annexed, if not regularly and legally united, for a very long period,—perhaps about the end of the fifteenth or the beginning of the sixteenth century, soon after Lord Hussey's attainder.

The church is a small but neat structure, partly of Early English and partly of Decorated character, and consists of a nave, with a very narrow aisle on the north side, having two

plain round pillars supporting gothic arches, between the nave and aisle, and a very slender picturesque tower and spire at the west end. Within its walls is nothing peculiarly worthy of notice, if we except the sweetly worded tablet on the south wall of the chancel:—

Consecrated to the memory of his deare Father Thomas Bovchier; borne at Hanborow in the county of Oxon: A worthy Divine and sometime faithful Preacher in this Church: A man of singular integrity and piety, who (changing this fraile life for eternity) expired Sept. 18, A^o *Ætatis* 67. et *soi* Jesu, 1635.

The patterne of conjugall love, the rare;
 Mirrour of father's care;
 Candid to all, his eu'ry action pen'd
 The copy of a friend,
 His last words best, a glorious eue (they say)
 Foretells a glorious day.

Erected & compos'd with teares by his pensive sonne Iames Bovehier.

There is likewise in the chancel another tablet to the memory of Thomas Appleby, A. M. rector of Quarrington, who died on the sixth day of March, 1683, and an ancient stone slab, on which are carved in bold relief three castles or turrets. To this slab the following notice in the Harleian MSS. doubtless alludes. "A chevron betw. 3 turrets,—*Sepissime super tumultum juxta solum in Cancellis.*"

An octagonal font, slightly ornamented with carved work, and standing upon a peculiarly heavy and plainly sculptured shaft, is placed at the west end of the north aisle. This font is of Perpendicular date, not very well executed. At the east end of this aisle is the smallest piscina we ever saw, singular also on account of its shape which is square, near to which is a stone bracket on which stood the image of a saint. The carved ends of a few of the old oak stalls in the body of the church are very curious.

The doorway toward the north is walled up, as is the case with village churches generally; and perhaps for this reason only, to save the expense of a weather-proof door. Every one who witnesses the damp, moss-grown floors of the north aisles particularly, must lament a custom which entirely prevents the draught of air that might be obtained by a few hours opening every week of opposite doors, and that cannot be had by a late regulation of casements, which, it is well known, are seldom or never set open.

The chancel, which was greatly dilapidated for a long time, was taken down a few years ago, and, though small, was rebuilt on a reduced scale in bad taste, one modern wooden framed window being substituted for two with stone mullions, an tiles in lieu of lead. Over the porch, on the south, is a stone tablet, apparently of early date, but the inscription thereon is too much obliterated to be satisfactorily made out.

To our brief notice of this pleasing and rural village church, we add a list of its Incumbents.

A. D.

—John Percy,
1431.—John Spaldyng.
1535.—Richard Yonge.
1558.—Robert Barton.
1575.—Robert Hicheock.
1611.—John Nixon.
—Thomas Bouchier.
1636.—Edward Trevillian.
1646.—Thomas Appleby.
1684.—John Kelsall.

A. D.

1690.—Edward Thomas.
1691.—Thomas Graves.
1724.—George Ray.
—Thomas Hervey.
1791.—Edward Waterson.
1797.—Carter.
—Bullen.
1810.—C. J. Blomfield, A. M.
1820.—William Stocking.
1821.—Isham Case, A. M.

The remains of what was the parsonage house, and the glebe, situated on the opposite side of the street, south of the church, were given in exchange to the Earl of Bristol, at

the enclosure, A. D. 1796. The house itself, with the exception of the part now occupied by the parish clerk, was burned to the ground about the year 1760, during the incumbency of the Rev. George Ray. The fire, which happened on a Sunday, in the time of divine service, is said to have originated in a very foolish custom, still prevalent, of firing up the chimney when the soot has ignited; in this case the fire was propelled from the chimney in a large body, and, falling upon the thatch, the consequence proved fatal. The house must have been both large and respectable, for Mr. Ray had at that time, under his care and roof, the sons of some of the first families in this part of the county, with whom he removed to another house in the village, which is very ancient and capacious, accommodating, at this time, two large families.

It is singular that in this small parish are to be seen the remains of two stone crosses, erected "auld lang syne." One of them, which stands at the north end of Mareham lane, by the London turnpike, where a toll-gate has stood for a great many years, is about five feet high, and the other, which is merely the basement stone, was standing, two years since, on the above turnpike road, about half a mile nearer the village, at a place called in old writings, "Stump-cross hill," now Quarrington field;—a small plantation marks the spot.

About the time of the enclosure, a trial was made for coal in a valley about half a mile south of the church, and to the right of the London turnpike. Although it is believed coal was to be found there, yet the trial was discontinued; but still it was not labour in vain, for a beautiful spring was opened, which gave rise to a small brook, of incalculable benefit to the villages lying near its course.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Quarrington contained seventeen families, and now there are twenty-six.

NORTH AND SOUTH RAUCEBY.

THE parish of Rosbi,^a Rowsby, or Rauceby, which consists of two townships or manors, denominated North and South Rauceby, is unquestionably very ancient, as its name evidently implies. It is situated four miles west of Sleaford and seventeen south of Lincoln, in the hundred of Flaxwell.

In the Conqueror's Survey we find the following notices of this place:—

“Land of the Bishop of Durham. In *Rosbi* hundred, and *Rosbi* hundred, there is soke in *Wilgebi* or *Chirchebi* three carucates of land and one oxgang to be taxed. Land to four ploughs. Almod, a vassal of the Bishop's, has there fifteen sokemen and six bordars having five ploughs, and half the advowson of the church.”

“Land of Robert de Veci. Soke. In *Rosbi* three carucates of land to be taxed. Land to four ploughs. Nineteen sokemen have three ploughs there.”

“Land of Robert de Statford. One manor. In *Rosbi* Ulsi had three carucates of land and half an oxgang to be taxed. Two manors. And Osmund (three oxgangs and a half) and Siward (one carucate) had eleven oxgangs and a half to be taxed. Land to as many ploughs and oxen. The land of Siward was free soke under Osmund. Edelo, a vassal of Robert's, has there seven sokemen with two carucates and five oxgangs of this land, and one villane with four ploughs.

^a *Rhos*, (British) a moist dale or vale, and *bi* or *by*, (Saxon) a habitation.

"Soke. And in another *Rosbi* Turuert had three oxgangs of land and a half to be taxed. Land to as many oxen. Six villanes and one farmer have there two ploughs and half the church. Value in King Edward's time sixty shillings, now seventy shillings.

"Manor. In *Roscebi* Turuert had nine carucates of land to be taxed. Land to nine ploughs. Brian, a vassal of Robert's, has there one plough and a half, and two villanes and one bordar.

"In the same place five oxgangs of land belong to the hall.^a

"In the same place Osmund had three carucates of land and one oxgang to be taxed. Land to as many ploughs. Three oxgangs and a half belong to his hall. The rest was soke of the same manor. Brien, a vassal of Robert's, has there twenty sokemen and four bordars, having four ploughs and three oxen in a plough. Value in King Edward's time forty shillings, the same now. Tallaged at ten shillings."

"Land of Geoffry Alselin. Soke. In *Rosbi* six carucates of land to be taxed, and two oxgangs and a half. Land to as many ploughs and oxen. The grandson of Geoffry has there twenty-five sokemen, and eight villanes, and five bordars with eight ploughs.

"Soke. In another *Rosbi* one carucate of land to be taxed. Land to twelve oxen. There are seven sokemen and two bordars with one plough and three oxen."

"Claims in *Chetsteven*. The jury of the wapentake say that Archil was a King's Thane, nor had he ever his land under Merlesuen.

^a Hall. (*Aula*.) A court baron, a hall or chief mansion house; the Lord's manor house. They were, it is said, built on pillars, which were so many stations for the tenants, sokemen, villanes, and bordars, who were not allowed to go beyond their respective places.

“ Robert de Statford, the jury of the wapentake say, unjustly held the soke of six oxgangs of the land of Archil in *Rosbi*.

“ The claim which Bishop Remigius makes of the soke of Archil in *Rosbi* hundred, the inquest say is unjust, because Archil himself had of this land only ten oxgangs of the demesne in exchange, and all the other land is delivered to the Bishop of Durham.”

At the time of taking the Testa de Nevill, successors of two of the above proprietors, viz. the Bishop of Durham and Robert de Statford, continued to hold part of the lands in this place.

“ Radolph de Normanvill held half a knight's fee, of the ancient feoffment in Rouceby, of Robert de Everingham.”^a

“ The Hospital of St. John held in Nordrounceby half a knight's fee of Hervey de Statford, and the said Hervey of the King in capite.

“ Also Galfrey the son of William held in the same place of the ancient feoffment, half a knight's fee of Robert de Everingham, and the said Robert of the King in capite.

“ Galfrey de Evermue held in the village of Sutrounceby, of the ancient feoffment, the fourth part of a knight's fee for one knight's service of the Bishop of Durham, the Bishop of the heir de Brune, and he of the King in capite.

“ Also Roger Haket held in the same place, of the ancient feoffment, the twelfth part of a knight's fee of William de Mortayn, and the said William of the Bishop of Lincoln, and the Bishop of the King in capite.

“ Also William Perun held in the same place, in pure and perpetual eleemosynary of the Knights Templars, but the quantity was not known.”^b

a Testa de Nevill, p. 307.

b Ibid, p. 319.

In the twenty-first year of the reign of Edward I., "Gilbert de Ormsby and others held the lands, &c., in North Rauceby, belonging to the Prior of St. John of Jerusalem."^a

Nothing more, that we have met with, remains on record respecting this place till the year 1559, when "Richard Thorpe was made to shew by what title he held the Grange of North Rauceby in the county of Lincoln."^b

The Carr family of Sleaford were possessed of part of this parish in the twelfth of the reign of Charles I., from whom it has descended to the Earl of Bristol.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is a very good stone building, of semi or mixed Norman styles: it has undergone many alterations, and contains parts of three distinct and separate periods of building. A nave, side aisles, chancel, spire steeple, and south porch, comprise the whole of this edifice. The tower, which contains four bells, supports a beautiful octagonal spire, the four lowest windows in which are encircled with the Saxon lozenge moulding,—the soffit plain, and St. Catherine's wheel on the point. The nave, which is supported by eight pillars or columns, has been raised to admit of a clear story, and embattled, having the crennels on the east and south ornamented with double quatrefoils encircling blank shields:—on the seventh, on the south side, is a symbol of free masonry, with a design for two windows in relief.

Many of the good old-fashioned seats, beautifully carved, still remain, on one of them is the figure of Henry VIII., which fixes the period when they were erected. The font is octagonal, each compartment ornamented with rosettes in relief. In the south aisle is a piscini and a locker, which are now concealed by the pews.

a Hundred Rolls.

b Originalia Exchequer.

Mr. Hollis has the following notes on the windows and monuments in this church, one of which (the inscription to the memory of William Styrlay) only now remains.

Fen. borealis sup'ior.

Palee of 6, arg. & B. in chief a cinquefoil G.—*Styrlay*.
Orate pro a'i'a Willi' Styrlay, vicarii, qui hanc fenestram fieri fecit.

Fen. borealis inferior.

G. 3 mullets arg. a labell of 3 points, or.
G. 2 barrs arg. in chief 3 roundells ermyn.
Arg. on bend sa. double cottised G. a chevron between 7 crosses botony of the first.
Arg. on a chevron sa. 3 crosses botony of the first.
Sa. a chevron betw. 10 crosses botony, arg.
Arg. 2 barrs G. in chief 3 torteauxes, a bend sable.—
Threkingham.
Arg. a chevron G. betw. 3 ———
Arg. a fesse betw. 3 cinquefoils G.—*Powtrel*.

Juxta cancellum.

Hic jacet Will'us Powtrel de Rowsby, qui obiit ———
Hic jacet Elizabetha quondam uxor Ric'i Pinchbeck, qui obiit
18^o die Septembris 1505, cujus &c.

In cancello tumulus ex marmore & ere.

Hic jacet Will'us Styrlay quond'm vicarius istius ecclesie &
canonicus de Shelford, qui obiit 4^o die Decembris, a'no
1536, &c.

Hic jacet Henr. Edward, Curatus de Rawshy, qui obiit x^{to} die Julii, a^{no} dⁿⁱ 1552, &c.

The choristory builded in the tyme of Sir William Styrlay, vicar and parish priest & Sir Henry Edward. The charge £44. 8s. 8d.

In cemeterio,

Hic jacet D^{nus} Will^{us} —

The monument of William Styrlay, before spoken of as still remaining, is in excellent preservation: it is on the floor of the chancel and consists of two brass plates, one containing his effigy, and the other the inscription, which, as Mr. Hollis has not given it correctly, we shall insert.

Hic jacet D^{nus} Will^m Styrlay, quondam vicari^{us} istius et
canonic^{us} de Shelford, qui obiit t^{er} die mensis Decembris,
A^{no} Dⁿⁱ M^oCCCC^oXXXV, cui^{us} aⁿim^{us}
p^{ro}picietur Deus. Amen.

The above person and Richard Carre were lessees of the great tithes at the dissolution of the monastery of Shelford, to which house they were appropriated about the year 1232, and granted at the suppression to William Stanhope, esquire.

The floors of the aisles and chancel still retain parts of some of the inscriptions handed down to us in the above notes, but are so much defaced by being trod upon, as not to be made out. On the chancel floor is the following inscription to the memory of one of the incumbents of this church:—

To the Memory of the Rev. John Pugh, M. A., 29 years Vicar
of the Parishes of Rauceby and Cranwell, who died April
26th, 1799, aged 56 years.

Also of Ann his wife, who died May 10th, 1780, aged 40 years.

And of Sophia his relict, who died Sept. 5th, 1803.

On a flat slab on the floor of the north aisle is this inscription:—

In memory of the Rev. John Flavell, B. A., of Clare Hall, Cambridge, and of Cleobury Mortimer, Salop, aged 23 years.

This very amiable pious person was ordained Deacon at Buckden, June 11, 1797, at that time very weak in body. On the day following he came hither, and on Sunday the 18th, took his happy flight hence rejoicing in his God and Saviour.

There are a few mural monuments also of modern date, in the church; the inscription on one of which, at the east end of the south aisle, we insert on account of the singularity of the verses thereon.

Near this place are interred the Wives of Richard Jessap; viz. Alice on Sep. 27, 1716, aged 25.

And Joanna, on Aug. 31, 1726, aged 29.

How soon y^e objects of my love
By death were snatcht from me;
'Two loving matrons they did prove,
No better cou'd there be.
One child the first left to my care,
The other left me three:
Joanna was beyond compare,
A Phoenix rare was she;
Heaven thought her sure too good to stay
A longer time on earth,
In childbed therefore as she lay,
To God resign'd her breath.

In Morte Quies.

In most of the windows of the aisles are several pieces of stained glass, such as splendid stars, leaves, acorns, &c.

The living is a discharged vicarage. Patron, Sir J. H. Thorold, baronet. Vicar, the Rev. William Verelst.

The vicarage house, which stands to the east of, and adjoins, the church yard, is a very genteel and rural residence, and owes much to the liberality of the late Rev. George Thorold, Vicar of Rauceby.

The church or chapel formerly standing in South Rauceby, was dedicated to St. James, and situated on the north side of the village, to the east of the road leading to North Rauceby. This chapel was also appropriated to the Priory of Shelford, in Nottinghamshire, and most probably fell at the dissolution of that house; certain it is that it was not in existence about the year 1640, for Mr. Hollis, speaking of South Rauceby, says, "In this place the church is down."

This parish, from its elevated situation, being considered the highest table land in the county, commands a beautiful and extensive prospect, and is reckoned healthy. An act passed in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of his late majesty George III., for dividing and enclosing the open and common fields in both townships, containing together about five thousand four hundred and forty-eight acres. The soil, in general, is crech on the west and a strong clay on the east, well adapted for barley, consequently a large quantity is grown here. The Earl of Bristol is lord of the manor and principal proprietor.

There was formerly a market kept here, not at the cross at the intersection of the roads in North Rauceby, but in a piece of ground, called the Green, on the north side of the church, which has been long discontinued.

A solitary house, situated on the Hermen Street, or High Dike road, at the intersection of the road leading from Sleaford to Newark, and at the north-west boundary of this parish, has been represented by the credulous as the residence of a

witch, who punished every one that, either from accident or curiosity, approached her cave. Another story which is told of this personage is, the taking of a prodigious leap on a horse called Bayard, hence the name of the place—*Bayard's Leap*. The holes in which the horse's feet are said to have rested are still kept open, and Dr. Stukeley, as a reference to the sixteenth page of this work will shew, makes mention of them in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*, but supposes them to be nothing more than the boundaries of four parishes. Every one who can allow for the influence of superstition in the dark and credulous ages, will not attach much weight to ancient traditions. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries tournaments were frequently held in this kingdom, and may not this place on Ancaster heath, have been selected for that honour, from which its present appellation is derived, for we find that "a district near Bicester, in Oxford, was called *Bayard's Green*," and one of the three places appointed by Richard I. for the first authorized tournaments held in England."^a On *Bayard's Green*, in Northamptonshire, in the year 1249, was also held a famous tournament.^b

There is a beacon^c near to Parham Dam,^d on the south side of the road leading to Sleaford, belonging to Adlard Welby, esquire, of South Rauceby, in which place he is a considerable proprietor: it is in good preservation and now planted with trees. The fire might be seen at Swineshead, Bicker, and Donington, which would enable the inhabitants to secrete or secure their property on the approach of the northern marauders.

a Beauties of Eng. and Wales, vol. xii. part 2, p. 543. b Paris, Bridges.

c Edward III. ordered all beacons to be repaired and a pole or ladder to be fixed on each, with a pitch-pan at the top.

d So called from one Parham, who perhaps made a dam for the use of his stock.

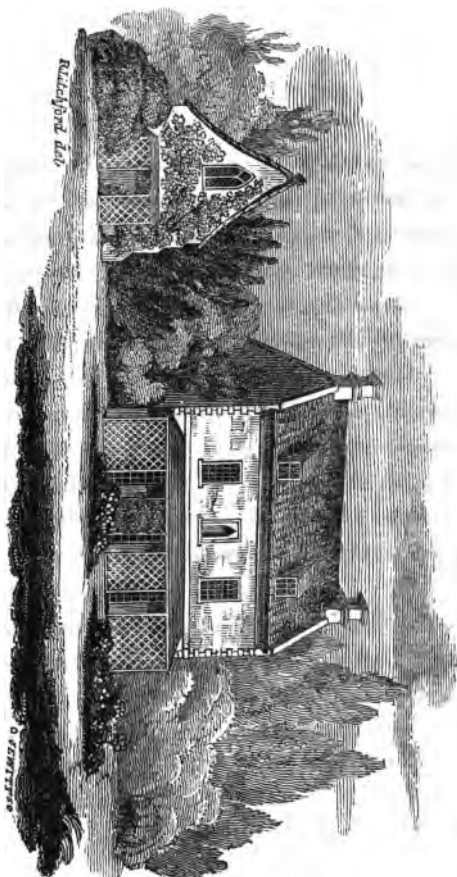
The residence of Adlard Welby, esquire, which is situated in the centre of South Rauceby, commanding a most extensive view towards the south, is accurately represented in the accompanying engraving.

The family of Welby is of great antiquity, being derived from John, Lord of Cayston, alias Welby, who took part with Robert de Toden against William the Conqueror. The main stock was seated at Gedney in this county, where there are some handsome family monuments.^a They appear to have been a family of some note for a very long period, several of them serving as Sheriffs of this county, and filling other honourable offices. A William Welby, son of William Welby of Haydor, was buried at Rauceby, sometime about A. D. 1700.

The population of both North and South Rauceby has greatly increased since Queen Elizabeth's reign, which may be easily accounted for, when the large extent of land taken into cultivation at the enclosure, is considered. The return at that time states that there were in *Rawcebie* twenty-two families, and in *South Rawcebie* twenty-one. By the last return, A. D. 1821, the former place appears to have then contained forty families, and a population of two hundred and fifty-two, and the latter forty-eight, with two hundred and fifty-five persons.

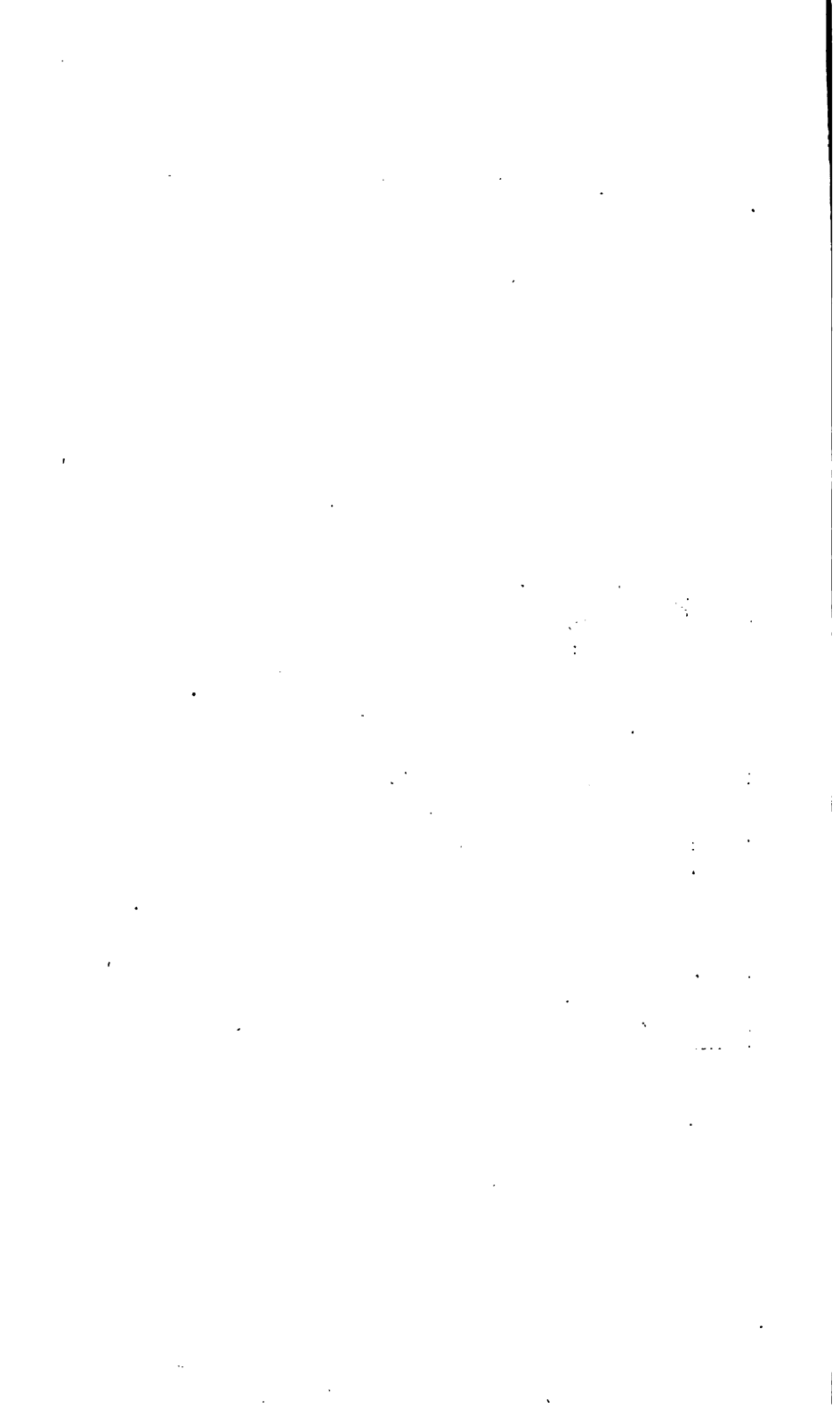
Robert Carr, esquire, of Aswarby, gave by will five pounds, and Dame Margaret Thorold three pounds, to be paid at stated times to poor persons of both townships. North Rauceby also has the privilege of sending two poor men to Sir Robert Carr's Hospital at Sleaford, but if there be not two proper subjects therein, then the vacancy is to be filled up by South Rauceby.

^a Vide Turner's Grantham, p. 124.



Rutland Ave

J. L. Smith



ROWSTON.

IN the hundred of Flaxwell, about seven miles north-east of Sleaford, and to the right of the low road to Lincoln, on a gentle eminence, stands the very secluded village of Rowston, the approach to which, from the south, is peculiarly pleasing, and from the disposition of some hedge-row timber, the church and manor-house assume an unusually singular appearance.

Among the variety of ways in which the name of this place has been written, as Rouestune, Rouston, Roustone, Rouston, Rulston, and its modern appellation Rowston, we have not been able to gain any, even the least, information to guide us in our inquiry into the root and derivation of the name this village has assumed.

Domesday Book tells us that one "Geoffry Alsepin had in *Rouestune* twelve carucates of land to be taxed. Land to twelve ploughs. Thirty-two sokemen have there ten ploughs. Two knights of Geoffry's held one carucate of this land, and have there one plough and a half, and two bordars, and one hundred and fifty acres of meadow. It is worth twenty shillings."

The manor appears to have been in the family of Cauz previous to the taking of Testa de Nevill, as we find the whole of the notices there given relating to this place, state the possessions to be held through the gift of that family.

"The Knights Templars held in the village of Rouston, twelve carucates of land and five bovates, of the new feoff-

ment, in pure and perpetual eleemosynary of the gift of Matilda de Cauz, and she of the King.

"Also Walter de Colingham held in the same village of Rouston, five bovates of land of the Chapter of Lincoln, of the gift of Matilda de Cauz.

"Also the Prior of Cattele held in Rouston, two bovates of land in pure and perpetual eleemosynary, of the gift of Galfrey de Cauz.

"Also Philip de Rouston held there half a knight's fee in pure and perpetual eleemosynary, of the Knights of Temple Bruer, of the gift of Matilda de Cauz.

"Also Richard West held in the same place, the sixth part of a knight's fee, of the Knights of Temple Bruer, in pure and perpetual eleemosynary."^a

In the year 1307, "the Master of the Knights Templars paid a fine to the King of eight marks, for license to enter into certain tenements in Rowston, &c."^b But within the brief space of five years after, the Knights Templars appear to have lost their possessions in this and several other places, for Edward II., in the fifth year of his reign, "gave to William de Spanneby the custody of the following manors in the county of Lincoln, viz. Rowston, la Bruer, Kirkby, Brauncewell, and others, to hold at the King's pleasure."^c

Again, in the seventh of the same reign, we see these "manors of Rowston, la Bruer, Kirkby, Brauncewell, &c., transferred, through the King's favour, to the custody of Ebulon de Mantibus."^d

We learn likewise that, in the year 1321, "Hugh de Figheler de Lincoln, paid a fine to the King of five marks, for permission to take, during his life, the manor of Rowston

Testa de Nevill, p. 319. b Originalia Exchequer. c Ibid. d Ibid.

with the appurtenances.”^a But this person appears to have not got the actual possession of this place till the first of Edward III. (A. D. 1327), in which year it is said that “ Hugh de Figheler de Lincoln recovered, in the King’s court at Lincoln, seisin against Adam de Everingham of the manor of Rowston with the appurtenances.”^b

From the extract following it would seem that not only the manor but the rectory of Rowston was claimed by the crown, in the year 1569. “ William Revett was made to shew why the manor of Roulston and the Rectory of Roulston, in the county of Lincoln, should not be seised into the hands of the Queen.”^c

From this period nothing decisive is known of this place till we come to the modern times of the late Samuel Thorold, esquire, of Harmston in this county, who was lord of the manor, and from whom it has descended, through marriage, to Benjamin Hart Thorold, esquire, the present lord of the manor.

The church, a vicarage, dedicated to St. Clement, patron, B. H. Thorold, esquire, is readily distinguished from every neighbouring church by its remarkably slender spire, which stands on a tower no less remarkable for its contracted form. We do not recollect to have ever met with a tower especially, and likewise a spire so proportioned: the tower is only four feet and a half square within, and is much too confined to have a general good effect; but the spire being thickly set with cogs or frostings, loses, on a nearer approach, much of its shadowy insignificance, and is by no means deficient in architectural beauty. There is a handsome zig-zag ornamented doorway on the south, through a porch, which has

a Originalia Exchequer.

b Ibid.

c Ibid.

clearly been rebuilt, lowered, and reduced, agreeably to the taste and liberality of modern times. Another doorway on the north, long walled up, has been, through the good taste of the present incumbent, restored, as well for the convenience of residences on the north of the church, as the benefit of a thorough draught of air during the week. The nave has an embattled parapet and a few remains of mutilated pinnacles; a chantry chapel on the north of the chancel has also an embattled parapet.

The roof of the nave rests on gothic arches, springing from three pillars, each of a different style of architecture, which divide the nave from a narrow aisle on the north. The pulpit is of fir deal, as well as the seats, which, with the exception of three free ones, are all enclosed. A Mrs. Milicent Neate, was the liberal giver of this pulpit and pews, A. D. 1741. Although prudence would incline a churchman not to damp the ardour of any benefactor in any way to the parish church, yet we declare that we would rather that Mrs. Neate's liberality had been otherwise exerted, and that the "olden" pulpit and open stalls, of oak without doubt and richly carved, had been suffered to remain. The situation of the parish clerk's pew is singular, being behind the reading desk, and this we apprehend to have arisen from the culpable good nature of a former incumbent, who, to accommodate some fanciful parishioner, consented to place his clerk in the back ground. The font, which is in excellent order, is of the prevailing octagonal figure, having seven of its compartments along the top, diversified with leaves and flowers, very well executed: the eighth side is plain, and was, probably, once placed close to the pillar from which it is now distant about half a foot. The chantry chapel is now partitioned off and used as a Sunday school room: a family of the name of Fox lies interred within, and it is said to belong to the Sheffield House estate.

Not a single remnant of the armorial bearings, labels, figures, or monogram, mentioned by Hollis as adorning the following windows of this edifice in his days is now to be seen:—

Fenestra australis cancelli.

Empaled. { Or. on a cross sable, 5 bulle's heads, couped arg.
 { Sa. on a chevron arg. 3 mullets pearded.
 G. betw. as many pheons of the 2nd, a chief extended over all. G. charged with a cross arg.

Fenestra borealis navis.

Arg. on a bend sa. 3 owles crowned of the first:—Savile.
 ——— Savile & Agnetis uxoris ———

Fenestræ boreales insulæ borealis.

Orate pro bono statu Rob'ti Hødleston & Emmotæ consortis suæ.

Orate pro bonu statu Joh'is Inman & Joh'e consortis suæ.

Orate pro a'ia Will'mi Grege & Aliciæ consortis suæ.

Effigies S'ti Egidii, & subtus vir orans —

Tu totus a cervâ repellas cuncta proterva.

Small as the tower is yet it contains two, of course very small, bells. Before leaving the threshold of this church, it would shew great want of taste in us, were we not to record the exquisite neatness of the whole interior. The registers commence with the year 1562, and from them we procured the subjoined list of Incumbents.

A. D.	A. D.
1562.—Thomas Parker.	1686.—John Lascells.
1566.—Edmund Hickson.	1741.—Graham, D. D.
1601.—Christopher Howes.	—J. R. Deacon,
1604.—William Northan.	1824.—Henry Clarke, M. A.,
1630.—John Harrison.	present Vicar.

The vicarage house stands across the road, north of the church. On what is called the green, a little distance from the church, on the south, are the remains of a cross, the base-ment with a short mutilated shaft;—we could almost fancy that an inscription was anciently along the base on the east side. The manor-house adjoining the west side of the church-yard, presents a very lengthened and handsome front towards the south, having seven large sash windows in a line, which are evidently of a much more modern date than the building itself, which is of stone but not very ancient.

On the east of the village, a long and spacious grassy lane, stocked by the cottagers and regarded as a sort of common, is called the *organ*;—perhaps *oxgang* is the word intended, to signify either the quantity of land, about thirteen acres, which an oxgang is supposed to imply, or, literally, a place where cows and *oxen gang* (Saxon). About a quarter of a mile to the west of the village remain three large delves, which tradition reports to have been fish-ponds belonging to the knights of Temple Brewer. In a sequestered spot, a mile west of the church, is seen a mean looking farm-house called *Sheffield House*, the property of Charles Tempest, esquire:—we were not able to trace the cause of its distinguishing appellation, but suggest either that nothing more was meant than a house placed in a field, abounding, in its joyous times, with sheaves of golden grain; or that a former proprietor “thinking that his house should continue for ever, called it after his own name.”

The population of this place has considerably decreased since the days of Queen Elizabeth, when there were thirty-three families, and in the year 1821, we find only twenty-five, amounting to one hundred and twenty-three persons.

The view from this village is very extensive, and the family house and woods at Thorpe Tilney afford a very agreeable prospect on the east.

RUSKINGTON.

THIS village is situated in the hundred of Flaxwell, about four miles north-east of Sleaford, on what is called the by-way or low road to Lincoln, a way which is selected by a certain description of persons, called hawkers and mendicants, as being the "way of the towns," as they term it, towards Lincoln: and it is a matter of some curiosity that, whilst the highway from Sleaford to Lincoln passes through but two villages, this by-way should traverse, in its course to the same, thirteen rather large and populous villages.

The most ancient way of writing the name of this village, that we are acquainted with, is to be found in Domesday Book, where we have two modes of spelling it, differing only in one letter, viz. *Rischintone* and *Reschintone*. Taking the former for the true orthography, and at the same time viewing its marshy and flat situation, we apprehend that *Rischintone* owed its name to the Saxon *risc*, a plant growing in water, which we call *rush*, and the common termination of so many English towns and villages, *intone* or *ington*.

Although little information of any interest to the present possessors of Ruskington is to be obtained from the work above referred to, yet it may be agreeable to those among them who have no means of seeing that record, to be afforded an opportunity of knowing what their ancestors, or more properly speaking their predecessors, had to say of their village in the days of William the Conqueror.

"Land of Earl Alan. Soke. In *Reschintone* hundred is soke of twelve carucates of land to be taxed. Land to as

many ploughs. Twenty-nine sokemen and twelve bordars have there six ploughs and thirty acres of meadow."

"Land of Drogo de Beaurere. In *Rischintone* he has six oxgangs of land to be taxed, and he has one plough there, and it is worth twenty shillings."

"Land of Geoffry Alselin. Manor. In *Reschintone* Tochi had twelve carucates of land to be taxed. Land to as many ploughs. Geoffry Alselin and Ralph, his grandson, have there two ploughs, and twenty-two sokemen with three carucates and two oxgangs of this land, and eight villanes and eight bordars having eight ploughs, and sixty acres of meadow, and two hundred and forty acres of wood, pasture here and there. Value in King Edward's time twenty-five pounds, now fifty pounds. Tallaged at ten pounds. There is a church and a priest, and three mills of four pounds twelve shillings and eightpence.

"One Drogo holds six oxgangs of land in *Reschintone* and has there one plough. It is worth twenty shillings."

Perhaps the extracts from *Testa de Nevill*, which was compiled about two centuries after Domesday, will possess greater interest with some, as bringing the history down nearer to their own times, and as recording the names of those who were great men of their times, and whose arms, &c., once sparkled in the windows of their parish church.

"William Bardolf held in Riskington, one knight's fee of the gift of the King in capite, of the ancient feoffment.

"Also John de Everingham held in the same place, one knight's fee of Robert de Everingham, of the new feoffment, and the said Robert of the King in capite, of the ancient feoffment."^a

^a *Testa de Nevill*, p. 319.

The records of Edward I. (A. D. 1304,) state that "Hugh Bardolf held the manor of Riskington, extending, with the members of Diggeby and Leuesingham, to lands in Rokesham and Brauncewell."^a

We also find it stated that, in the year 1330, (fourth of Edward III.) "the King granted to Agnes, the widow of Thomas Bardolf, the manor of Ruskinton, with the members of Lessingham and Diggeby, and all other appurtenances in the county of Lincoln, for £26. 10s. 3½d."^b

This place continued to be held by the Bordolfs, for a long time after the above period, as it appears that, in the fifth year of Henry IV. (A. D. 1403), "Aducia, who was the wife of Thomas, Lord Bardolf, was required to account for the value of the manor of Ruskinton, in the county of Lincoln, which exceeded the value of £80. per annum."^c

In the eleventh year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, we find the manor in the hands of Arthur Johnson, gentleman, who seems to have been "made to shew by what title he held the manor of Russington alias Ruskington, in the county of Lincoln."^d

Perhaps Ruskington contains fewer objects of rural beauty, and is approached under less favourable circumstances, than any other village included in these Sketches; but still we mean to show that even here are some points of interest and features of beauty. For, first, its church is an object of no common cast, when viewed from the eastern extremity of the village street; indeed it is difficult to conceive how, with so little borrowed aid, so much interest remains to charm the eye. And, next, its pellucid stream, which divides the dwellings of the village almost equally, ever rippling along its

a Hundred Rolls. b Originalia Exchequer. c Ibid. d Ibid.

ancient bed, glittering with the first dawn of every day, and reflecting, as from a glass, the moon and the starry firmament each night, possesses ever-varying and never-ending delights.

The vicarage church, dedicated to All Saints, is under the patronage of the King. From some external marks we were, on the very first inspection, led to believe that the tower, at least, of this church was, by comparison, of modern elevation; and from an inscription about midway up the tower, viz. R. W. I. I. Ch. Wa., with the date 1620, we concluded that at that time the same was rebuilt. Upon inquiry we were informed that, according to tradition, this church had anciently a very lofty spire, which fell down suddenly, and in its fall cast the bells over the southern wall of the church-yard, into the stream by which it is bounded;—if such was really the case, the elevation of the belfry must have been very considerable, as the church-yard on the south is of some extent. We have nothing to depend on, in this case, except tradition, but, reasoning from the uncommon dimensions of the tower compared with its height, we readily believe the account as far certainly as regards the spire, and conclude the walls to stand on the broad basis of the original building. The tower, which is simply chaste and neat, having a plain parapet, and is in excellent preservation, contains a clock with a double face, but *affording truth from neither*, and three ancient bells. A porch on the south, which we suppose has also been rebuilt, has the remains of a stone cross over the centre, and conducts to a very beautifully carved arch at the entrance to the church. A plain parapet of stone runs along the walls of the high and low stories on both sides, giving a very neat appearance.

The interior has not much to interest an antiquary, if we except the font and one richly wrought pillar. The nave is separated from each of its aisles by three gothic arches, rest-

ing on pillars: those on the south side are of different architecture, one being exceedingly curious and of a non-descript style, as is also the half or terminating pillar in the east wall. There are appearances of a private chapel having once been at the east end of the south aisle (a very unusual situation), extending, apparently, to the ornamented pillar noticed above. An arched doorway, formerly leading therein, and several brackets for images still remain. The seats are chiefly plain, unsculptured open oak stalls, with a modern pulpit of deal. The font, which is now enclosed in a modern pew against a pillar at the west end of the north aisle, is of the octagonal shape, with a similar shaft. The several divisions of the font are ornamented with shields, bearing different devices, four having roses and finials; three of the remaining four clearly bear either arms or symbolical figures, but so plastered with coats of yellow-wash as to be rendered undistinguishable; while the fourth, protected by the pillar from the rude hand of *modern beautifying taste*, sets forth an emblem of the crucifixion, bearing two scourges and two spears cross-wise.

We entered through a humble screen into a chancel, which is remarkable for having on either side, in the opposite walls, a stone stall or niche under a pointed arch, a circumstance we never before noticed. There are also on each side two very ancient lancet windows, as well as two singular and low ones of the same style, opposite to each other at the western end. We are inclined to believe that when "this quire was pulled down, taken shorter, lower, and rebuilt, the north side at the east of the Rev. W. Wyche, rector, and the south at the joint charge of the Hon. R. Witherington, of Blankney, and others, in 1710," the above stone stalls were placed, for the sake of uniformity, though in exceedingly bad taste, on opposite sides instead of the usual situation on the south; and that the two low windows were so placed for the sake of giving light to

the impropiator's pews. Some inscriptions on the walls, and a mural tablet, relate to a family of the name of Cranwell.

On the wall of the north aisle is a singular stone tablet, adorned with the bearing of a chevron and three horse shoes, to the memory of Matthew Stow, who died A. D. 1710, aged 75, and having the following curious epitaph:—

Secretly sleeps here underneath this stone,
The good, the pious STOW, a foe to none;
Of all his friends belov'd, of all lamented sore;
With Christ now tane his flight, to reign for evermore.

There are a few oak leaves and other trifling remnants of stained glass in the north-east window of the church, but not a particle is left of the following emblazoned arms, which shone "in fenestris" in the time of Mr. Hollis.

Empaled. { Arg. a fess B. a label of 5 points G.—*Everingham*.
 { B. a cross patonce voyded arg.—*Melton*.

Empaled. { B. a cross patonce voyded arg.—*Melton*.
 { Arg. a fess B. a label of 5 points G.—*Everingham*.

Arg. a fess B. a label of 5 points G.—*Everingham*.

G. a chevron betw. 10 crosse crosselets, or.—*Kyme*.

B. 3 cinquefoyles, or.—*Bardolfe*.

The registers go no further back than the year 1668, and contain nothing curious. The Rev. John Myers is the present Incumbent of the Vicarage.

The humble residence of the village pastor stands at the south-west corner of the church-yard, to which cemetery one entrance is not deficient in simple rural beauties: it is across the brook, over a lengthened bridge, of rude material and workmanship, conducting to a narrow wicket gate, flanked by two beautiful lime trees of no common size and age.

Nothing is now known of the discharged Rectory of Ruskington, which we find is in the patronage of G. Ireton, esquire.

The charitable donations to the poor of this village are, with the exception of Lady Hodgson's, very inconsiderable.

Ann Hodgson, widow and relict of Sir Thomas Hodgson, late of Rowston in this county, knight, by will A. D. 1719, gave to trustees therein named, certain lands, tenements, &c., at Ruskington, now the property of Mr. Joseph Tomlinson, the rents and profits thereof to be applied towards the maintenance of three poor women, past labour, inhabitants of Rowston and Ruskington, but of Rowston chiefly, each of whom receives one shilling and sixpence weekly, and twenty shillings yearly for firing. Beside this they receive fifty shillings every two years, and the like sum the third year, towards providing them with apparel and other necessities.

The above lady also directed her trustees to pay ten pounds annually to such schoolmaster as they should choose, for instructing ten poor children to be chosen out of the above two parishes, and all other children of the tenants of her estates in Rowston and Ruskington, that should be sent to him, to read, write, and cast accounts, and to fit them for business. She likewise left the yearly sum of ten pounds for putting out two such poor children apprentices.

Mrs. Martha Chamberlain gave, at her death, forty shillings yearly, issuing out of the tithes, for instructing ten poor children; and William Watson, A. D. 1659, gave, by will, two pounds,—twenty shillings for the poor and the residue for repairs of the church;—this being payable out of Lord Widdrington's estates, was lost on his attainder in the year 1715.

An inscription, and armorial bearing in a lozenge, in the gable of an old house a little north of the church, point out the dwelling of Lady Hodgson's three poor women, whose united ages at this time amount to two hundred and fifty-four years. A new school-room, of pleasing exterior appearance, has lately been erected for the children.

7
This parish was enclosed in the year 1777. Sir Jenison William Gordon, baronet, is the principal proprietor and lord of the manor, but there are many smaller proprietors.

From the number of newly erected tenements and cottages, we were not surprised to find a vast increase in the number of families since the return in Elizabeth's reign, wherein we find that *Ryskington rect. and vic.* had fifty-five families. By the return of 1821 we find there were then one hundred and thirty-seven families, comprising a population of six hundred and seventy-eight.

About two miles south-east of the village, and in the parish of Ruskington, stands

HAVERHOLM PRIORY,^a

Now the property and residence of Sir Jenison William Gordon, baronet. It is situated about four miles east by north of Sleaford, on an island of three hundred acres, formed by two branches of the Sleaford river, which, dividing itself at about two miles and a half from that place, unites again three miles lower.

The earliest mention we have met with, relating to this religious house, is collected from Dugdale, who informs us that "Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, gave the island then called *Hafreholm*, afterwards St. Mary, with all its appurtenances, free from all burdens, for building of this monastery of the order of Sempringham, in the year 1139."^b *Hafreholm*, it seems, was its ancient name, which originated, perhaps, from the Welsh *aner*, a port, and the Saxon *holm*, a river island.

^a A Priory was a society of religious, where the chief person was termed a Prior or Prioress, and generally subordinate to some great Abbey.

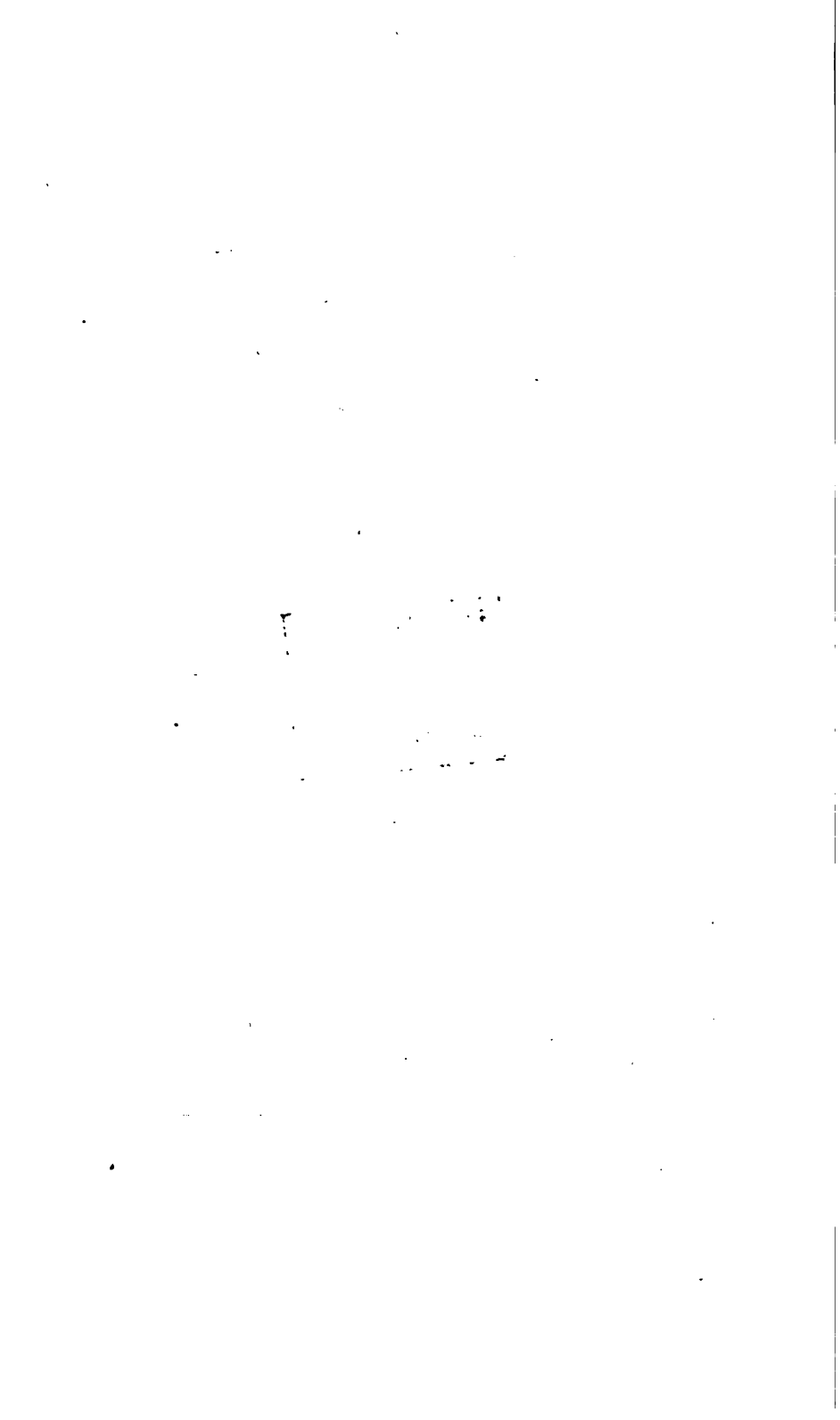
^b Monasticon, vol. li. p. 205.



R. L. Wright, del.

W. Hughes, sculp.

HAVERHOLM PRIORY.



Tanner tells us that "this place was first given by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, to the Cistercian monks of Fountaine's Abbey, in Yorkshire, about the year 1137, that they might build an abbey of that order; but after having made some progress in the same, they pretended not to like the situation, and thereupon removed to Louth Park."^a

How this property came into the hands of the Bishop, it is not in our power to discover, but we find that after the monks of Fountaine's Abbey had quitted it, he "quickly disposed of the island to the new and strict order of St. Gilbert of Sempringham,"^b who, most probably, completed what the others had begun, and erected that building, the Priory of Haverholm, which has rescued this island from oblivion. This order of religious settled here A. D. 1139, and after existing four hundred years, William Hall, prior, and six canons, surrendered the Priory to King Henry VIII. the fifth of September, 1539. Fourteen years after this surrender, Edward, Lord Clinton, to whom the site was granted at the dissolution, had still remaining in charge £6. 18s. 4d. in annuities and corrodiess, in addition to the sum of £20. in pensions to the

^a Notitia Monastica, p. 260.

^b "The Sempringham or Gilbertine Canons were instituted by St. Gilbert at Sempringham in Lincolnshire, A. D. 1148, and confirmed by Pope Eugenius III. This devout man composed his rule out of those of St. Austin and St. Benedict, (the women following the Cistercian regulation of St. Benedict's rule, and the men the rule of St. Austin,) with some special statutes of his own. The habit of these Canons, as described in the Monasticon, is a black cassock with a white cloak over it, and a hood lined with lamb-skins. This order consisted of both men and women, who lived in the same houses, but in such different apartments that they had no communication with each other, and increased so fast that St. Gilbert himself founded thirteen monasteries of it, viz. four for men alone, and nine for men and women together, which had in them seven hundred brethren and fifteen hundred sisters. At the dissolution there were about twenty-five houses of this order in England." PREFACE TO TANNER'S NOT. MON. p. 19.

undernamed brothers and nuns, who were inhabitants at the dissolution. Henry Butler, £4.—Ralph Robynsonne, £2. 13s. 4d.—John Braye, £2.—Margaret Woodhouse, £3. 6s. 8d.—Johanna Crossyer, £2.—Dorothy Flower, £2.—Elizabeth Wabertonne, £2.—and Sibilla Percell, £2.^a

If the statement of Sir William Dugdale,^b of the number of religious to be admitted into this house, viz. fifty brothers and one hundred nuns, be correct, we can easily account for the very extensive foundations which may still be traced here, and have no doubt but that, in its day, the Priory of Haverholm was a very distinguished monastic edifice.

The income attached to this house at its dissolution, according to Speed, was £88. 5s. 5d. per annum. This will appear to many but a small income for an establishment so large, as above stated by Dugdale, but if they bear in mind the value of an income little short of one hundred pounds per annum, three centuries ago, their surprise will cease.

The following grant of Adam Fitz-Peter to this house will, perhaps, be interesting to some of our readers.

“To all the Sons of our Holy Mother the Church, Adam Fitz-Peter, Greeting. Be it known to you that I have given, and by this present deed confirm to the Nuns, Canons, and Brothers, at Haverholm, there serving God and St. Mary, all I had in the town of Norford, viz. one carucate of land, with all its appurtenances in wood and plain, waters, meadows, and pastures. Besides this, I will give to the aforesaid Nuns, Canons, and Brothers, for ever, one stone of wax yearly, at the feast of St. Michael, and my heirs shall do so for me for ever: All this I have given them with the good will of my wife Maud, and of my heirs, in free and perpetual alms, as is most freely given to any free religious persons, quit of all

^a Willis's *Abbeys*, vol. ii. p. 118.

^b *Monasticon*, vol. ii. p. 207.

secular service, exaction and occasion, as any alms is most freely given to any religious person; and we will warrant and maintain all these things aforesaid, against all men, as our proper and special alms, saving ourselves and the reasonable service of our Lord the King. But it is to be observed, that this carucate at Norford defends itself for a fourteenth part of a Knight, and the two carucates at Kikely for the eighth part of a Knight's service. All this I have given to the aforesaid Convent of Haverholm, with my daughter Juliana and my niece Maud, for the health of all our kindred, as well living as deceased. But at my death they shall perform the service for me and my wife Maud, which they do for any Canon or Nun of their order. These being witnesses;—Robert Pyron, Alexander Cressy, Robert Divell, Robert, my heir, Helias Fitz-Richard, Robert Divell, Peter Filad, Richard Such, Roger Fitz-Richard, Helias Man, Robert Pyron, Geoffrey York.”^a

This house had also the patronage of the following church livings, viz. Anwick, Old Sleaford, Ruskington, Quarrington, and alternately of Dorrington, of which latter church a moiety was in the Monastery of Haverholm, A. D. 1209. The following notices refer to the presentation to some of the above livings. “John de Kirkeby, chaplain, was presented by the Prior and Convent of Haverholme to the Vicarage church of Amewyk, 1286.” “Conrad de Kokenato was presented by the Prior, &c., to the church of Old Sleaford, 1245.” “Alexander de Brancewelle, clerk, was presented &c. to the church de Querington, 1218.”

The church of Old Sleaford paid forty shillings yearly to this monastery, which also received a payment of £8.3s.4d.

^a Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. ii. p. 264.

for a mill on the river Lafford;—"molend' (inum) sap' aqua Lafford, viijl. lijs, iiijd.

Robert Cane, gentleman, was lord of the manor of Haverholm in the thirty-sixth of Henry VIII.; and in the fourth of Elizabeth, the moieties of the manors of Haverholm and Ruskington belonged to William Thorold and his wife.^a But in the twenty-seventh of the same reign, "an enquiry was made whether the separate returns in the account of the Bailiff of Haverholm, are parcels of the manor of Stanton, in the counties of Nottingham and Lincoln."^b

The present possessor of Haverholm has made great additions to the remains of the ancient buildings, and in a style corresponding with the circumstances of the place. South of the house is a well wooded park of considerable extent, stocked with deer, and of beauty and variety beyond what the features of the surrounding country lead one to expect. It is in the lordship of Ewerby, and separated from the home grounds by the southern branch of the Sleaford river, over which is the ancient Nun's Bridge.

The appropriated grounds on the north communicate with the turnpike road leading from Sleaford to Tattershall, at the distance of half a mile from the house, and are intersected by the Sleaford navigation. These circumstances contribute as much to the accommodation of this seat, as the thriving and well-disposed plantations do to its embellishment.

Since its dissolution as a religious house, Haverholm Priory has been the property of the Clintons, Abdys, &c., until the year 1763, when it was purchased of Sir John Shaw, baronet, by the late Sir Samuel Gordon, baronet, father of the present owner.

^a Originalia Exchequer.

^b Ibid.



TEMPLE BREWER.

TRAVELLING along the turnpike-road from Sleaford towards Lincoln, we obtain, from the top of the hill just beyond Dunsby lane, and within a short distance of the fifth mile stone, a most extensive and delightfully varied prospect. It is a spot on which the writer of this notice has again and again lingered and meditated. Looking back on the country we have left, we are presented with a view of innumerable and handsome parish churches, scattered over a vast expanse of country, including the magnificent tower of Boston church. Tattershall Castle, Kyme Tower, and Haverholm Priory, come also into the prospect. Directing our attention to the north-east we are gratified with a view of that splendid pile, Lincoln Cathedral, having Dunston Pillar, that guide to the bewildered traveller in former days over a trackless waste, in its

foreground. And here the unassisted eye embraces, in one vast range, several of the churches on what is called the **Cliff Row**, as well as that of **Ashby** and the woods of **Bloxham**, with the sweet little village of **Brauncewell** lying in its sheltered vale. Amidst all these varied prospects a low embattled tower is seen, about two miles west by north, having all the character of some humble village church, but which is no other than the remains of a habitation of the **Knights' Templars**,^a called **Temple Brewer**.

The name of this place, **Temple Brewer** or **Templum de la Bruere**, arose from its standing on what was formerly, and indeed till within a very few years, a vast extended heath. **Tanner** tells us that the original form of this building was after the model of the **Holy Temple** in the city of **Jerusalem**, and that it was a preceptory^b of the **Knights' Templars**, founded by the **Lady Matilda de Cauz**, about the time of **Henry II.**^c

The **Knights' Templars** obtained of **Henry II.** a charter for holding a market on **Thursday**, on their manor of **Temple Brewer**, as also another from **Henry III.** for altering the same to **Wednesday**, together with a license for a fair of three days

a "The **Knights' Templars** were instituted A. D 1118, and were so called from having their first residence in some rooms adjoining to the temple at **Jerusalem**. Their business was to guard the roads for the security of pilgrims in the **Holy Land**, and their rule, that of **Canons regular** of **St. Austin**; their habit was white, with a red cross on their left shoulder. Their coming into **England** was probably pretty early in the reign of **King Stephen**, and their first seat in **Holborn**." PREFACE TO **TANNER'S NOT. MON.** pp. 24 and 25.

b Preceptories were manors or estates of the **Knights' Templars**, where they placed some of their fraternity under the government of one of those most eminent **Templars**, who had been by the **Grand Master** created "**Præceptores Templi**," to take care of the lands and rents in that place and neighbourhood, and so were only cells to the principal house in **London**.

c **Tanner's Notitia Monastica**, p. 274.

continuance, viz. the day before, day of, and day after, the feast of St. James the apostle.^a

King Edward I., in the thirty-fourth year of his reign, also granted license to them to erect a fortified gate-house or tower upon their manor of Temple Brewer.^b

The Templars continued to possess this place till the first year of Edward II., when the whole of the order of Knights' Templars in England were attached by their bodies and kept in safe custody, though not in hard or vile prison, until the King did otherwise ordain, and their lands, tenements, and goods, as well ecclesiastical as temporal, with all their charters and writings, were seized and taken into the King's hands.^c

Shortly after this period another order of religious, styled Knights' Hospitallers,^d were put into possession of the vast property belonging to the Templars,^e for Stow tells us that, "In the seventeenth year of Edward II. (A. D. 1324,) it was ordained, by the King and Parliament of England, that the Knights of the order of St. John of Jerusalem, lately called

a Peck's MSS., British Museum, Vol. iv. No. 4937.

b Ibid.

c Stow's Chronicle, p. 214.

d "This order took its name from an hospital built at Jerusalem for the use of pilgrims coming to the Holy Land, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist. For the first business of these Knights was to provide for such pilgrims at that hospital, and to protect them from injuries and insults upon the road. They were instituted about A. D. 1092, and were very much favoured by Godfrey of Bulloigne, and his successor Baldwin, King of Jerusalem. They followed chiefly St. Austin's rule, and wore a black habit with a white cross upon it. They soon came into England, and had a house built for them in London, A. D. 1100; and from a poor and mean beginning, obtained so great wealth, honours, and exemptions, that their Superior here in England was the first lay baron, and had a seat among the Lords in Parliament." PREFACE TO TANNER, p. 24.

e Matthew Paris says the Templars had nine thousand manors in Christendom, and at their suppression they had sixteen thousand lordships besides other lands.

the Knights of Rhodes, should have all the lands of the late Templars, in such sort as the Templars had them.”^a

From this time this place became a Commandery^b of the Knights’ Hospitallers, of whom nothing particular appears till the year 1503, when it is said that the Commander of Temple Brewer claimed Ashby Heath as belonging to them, in consequence of which a suit was instituted, as we find, “bycause of the wrongfull cleyme and pretence that Syr Thomas Newport made; which was the the fyrst man of his relection of S. John, or eny other that ever afore made title or cleyme to Assheby Heith, bytwyx the old Lincoln way and the new Lincoln way (which is now the broder way), by Lyngho graunge; wher as Temple heith comyth no fether, nor never dyd, then to the Litill-strete. And now he wold have it to the said new Strete, which was made within tyme of gode remembrance by Bp. Amwyk, when he rode betwene Lincoln and Sleford, when his castill of Sleford was in beldyng.”^c

Several old inhabitants of almost every village in the neighbourhood, appear to have given evidence concerning the above, but as their testimonies are much alike, we shall select only a few of the most curious.

“Olde Master Thomas Wymbyssh of Nokton, esq. of the age of four score yere and more, did testify (by Nichalas his ij^d son, whom he sent purposely to them to the Heithe, to shew

^a Stow’s Chronicle, p. 214.

^b Commanderies were the same among the Knights’ Hospitallers, as Preceptories were among the Templars, viz. societies of those knights placed upon some of their estates in the country, under the government of a Commander, who were allowed proper maintenance out of the revenues under their care, and accounted for the remainder to the Grand Prior in London.

^c This is undoubtedly an error, for Sleford Castle was built three hundred years before Bishop Anwick’s time, so therefore the probability is, that he was doing some considerable repairs at it when he made the above road.

them the same for trouth) that the litill olde strete, west fro the said brode strete was the olde way bytwyxe Lincoln and Sleaford, and allway so called and used, unto the said Bp. Amwyk, by oft tymes using to ride betwene Lincoln and Sleaford, by continuance dyd frett and fyrst used and made the said new way, that now is called the new brode way."

"Thomas Baker of Scapwyk, born at Assheby, saith that ther was a gret bounde-stone stondyng of the south syde of the Temple Daile, when he was yong, and shewed the place where it stode, where the mencion yet apperith. And further he said, that the said bound-stone was taken upp by a man of Dygby that brought a lode of turvys fro Dygby to Welborn, as then was well knowen; and that afterwards was mych besynes made by one Edm^d Clarke of Assheby agayns the said man that toke uppe this stone. And further that the said stone stondyth under a post-fote in a lathe at Dygby, and that he hath sytten on the same stone many and divers tymes, and playd with the Shepherds in his youth, when it stode for a bounde stone in the hill side, of the south side of the said daile."

Syr Henry Jarcoppe, Parson of the church at Dunnysby, deposith and saith, that he dwelt at the Temple in his yong days, and that he was chapleyn and Steward to Master Skayfe of Temple, next byfore Syr John Boswell, which succeeded hym. And saith, that all the tyme he was officer and steward ther, he never knew or herd tell, but all the heith fro the brode way (callid Bp. Amwyk way), unto the older way or strete westward, next Mershow (callid the olde streite), but that it was callid Assheby heith."^a

The Hospitallers continued here till the dissolution, and had annexed such possessions to it, as were valued, twenty-sixth

^a Peck's MSS., Vol. ly. No. 4937,

of Henry VIII., at £184. 6s. 8d. per annum, according to Dugdale and Speed, and £195. 2s. 2d. ob. q. in another valuation, which were granted in the thirty-third year of the same reign to Charles, Duke of Suffolk.^a

The manor of Brewer and its appurtenances were, it is said, given to the Templars by one Robert de Everingham.^b The rental of it, returned in the thirty-second of Henry VIII., states that the orchards, gardens, houses, and a close, called the East Close, were worth only four pounds ten shillings per annum. Also that a rabbit warren, two thousand acres of sheep-walk, and a windmill, were estimated at ten pounds, and upwards of fifty acres of Grange at one pound per annum.^c

The following list of the Preceptors of the Templars and Commanders of the Hospitallers, we have obtained from various sources.

PRECEPTORS.

A. D.

1260.—Amadeus.

1282.—Rob. de Turvile.

A. D.

1290.—Guido de Foresta,

1300.—Will. de la More.

COMMANDERS.

1364.—John Percley.

1430.—William Huller.

1432.—Robert Mallore.

1441.—Robert Botyll.

1460.—Skayfe.

1484.—John Boswell.

1503.—Thomas Newport.

1509.—Thomas Docwra.

We are able to collect but few materials relative to the Temple church, and other buildings formerly existing at this place. Leland, who visited it about the year 1546, says "there be greate and vaste buildings but rude at this place, and the este ende of it is made *opere circularii de more*;" and Hollis,

^a Tanner's Not. Mon. p. 274. ^b Mon. Ang. tom. ii. p. 547. ^c Peck's MSS.

who wrote his Church Notes about a century after, tells us the following arms were then in existence:—

Emp^d. { Q'tly. { Arg a chief G. over all a bend B.—*Crumwell*.
 { Chequy or. & G. a chief ermyne.—*Tateshale*.
 { B. a fesse daunce betw. 10 billets or.—*Deincourt*.

Rad'us Baro Crumwell, Angliæ Thesaurar tempore Hen. VI.
 G. a lyon rampant arg. on a bend B. 3 escal. or.—

Quarterly. { Sa. a crosse engrayled or.—*Ufford*. } *Willughby*.
 { G. a crosse sarcely arg.—*Beke*.

G. a lyon rampant arg.—*Mowbray*.

Q'tly. { B. semy of flours de lize, a lyon ramp. or.—*Beaumont*.
 { B. 3 cinquefoyle or.—*Bardolfe*.

Ermyne a chevron sa.—

Empaled. { Or. on a cross sa. 5 bulles heads couped arg.—
 { Sa. on a chevron arg. 3 mullets G. betw. 3 pheons
 of the 2nd. over both a chief extended G.
 charged with a crosse arg.—

Arg. a chevron betw. 3 eglets sa.—

G. a chevron ermyne, a border engrayled B. — bis.—

B. 3 cinquefoyles or.—*Bardolfe*.

Q'tly. { B. 3 lepard's heads jesant flours de liz or.—*Cantelupe*.
 { G. crusilly botony fitchy, a lyon ramp. arg.—*La Warre*.

Or. a lyon rampant double queue sa.—*Welles*.

G. bezanty, a canton ermyn.—*Zouch*.

Barry of 6. arg. & B.—*Grey*.

Arg. on a bend sa. 3 owles of the first, a mullet for diff.—*Savile*.

B. 2 raynardes passant, or.—

G. a lyon rampant arg. over all a bend B. charged with 3
 escallops or.—

Hollis says there was also a tomb to the memory of Dorothy the wife of Roger Roletton, who died the eighteenth of January, 1529, bearing the following empalement:—

Emp^d. { Q'trly. { Party per fesse G. & arg. a lyon passant in
 chief arg. in bast. a cinquefoyle pearced
 B.—*Roleton*.
 — a chevron betw. 10 martlets sa.—
 Arg. 10 torteuzes, a labell of 3 B.—*Babington*.

Gough, speaking of Temple Brewer, says, "here was when Buck drew it (about A. D. 1726), a round church after the model of the Holy Sepulchre, but now only the tower and some vaults. Over against this place Dr. Stukeley saw a cross on a stone, cut through, in the shape of that borne by the Knights' Templars, which he supposed a boundary of their demesnes."^a

The vignette at the beginning of this article is a correct view of the present appearance of the north and east fronts of the tower, and which, consequently, will require no description. The tower is square and embattled, but the top is now very much dilapidated. The south front is perhaps the most ornamented;—it contains three windows, the lowest of which has been divided by mullions into three compartments, and is now lengthened out for a doorway,—the middle one is of the lancet shape, and that at the top square. Near the top of this front runs a kind of stone roll, ornamented with rings and rosettes. The east side is similar to the south, but the upper part is sadly mutilated. This and the south side have decidedly had nothing attached to them. The only entrance into this tower was by the doorway (now walled up) shewn in the vignette, fronting the north. The ground is considerably raised or mounded for about fifteen yards from this door. Tradition relates that there was a flight of steps leading into a subterranean room or vault under this raised mound; if so,

^a Gough's Camden, vol. ii, p. 356.

it is more than probable that the doorway in the tower was accessible only through the same.

The interior of the tower appears to have comprised three stories, the roof of the bottom one of which only now remains. This room is finely vaulted and groined, and has on the south and west sides nine beautiful and richly carved arches, with highly ornamented basements, which have been supported by slender columns, all of which except one are now gone. The arches are also much battered, and scarcely a piece of moulding left perfect. In one of these arches, which are in the wall, is a hollow stone like a piscini, the others appear to have been seats or stalls. Nothing can possibly exceed the beauty of them, their depth and their interlacery are beyond our powers to describe, and we could but lament to see a room so vastly beautiful, sacrificed to the common uses of a farm-yard, having an opening out in its southern aspect to serve as a doorway, when, by going a few steps further, the original one would have saved both the labour and the spoliation. If we were to offer a hint to the wealthy proprietor of this place, it would be that the southern doorway be walled up, and the low room cleaned out, still to be converted to the use of the tenant as a dairy or cheese-room, that the cracks and openings in the outer walls be well filled up, and chiefly, that the whole be covered down with a flat roof of lead. Thus, this building which has stood the test of more than five centuries at least, and that in no common situation, but exposed to every blast, would defy the hand of time for some centuries to come, and still be an object of increasing interest to many generations.

This tower, we suppose, was the fortified gate-house or tower, built by license of King Edward I. in the year 1306, for it has all the character of a place of strength. It is very clear the summit of this building was in frequent use, for the steps leading to it are as much worn away at the top as in any other part,

so that, probably, a sort of terrace or watch-tower was on the summit. The walls are three feet in thickness.

In digging the foundations for a stable, east of the tower, a short time ago, several basement stones for pillars, and one with a shaft of a round indented column, were discovered, and as Leland says the church was towards the east, they doubtless belonged thereto. West of the tower is a hollow, nearly filled up, which we suppose was the famed ancient well, in which were found not many years since, at about fifteen yards from the surface, three church bells and some bars of iron. A well still in use is a great curiosity on account of its vast diameter.

The dwelling house, which is about thirty yards south of the tower, has, in different parts of it, an appearance of much antiquity, particularly the copings of the north gable, in which there is a small gothic window, with admirable minute tracery. Some of the passages within were vaulted and groined. From these circumstances it is highly probable that this building formed part of the residence of the knights.

There are two tumuli in the Temple close, on which some cannon balls have been found; these hills have hitherto remained unexplored, and perhaps the labour is as well spared, for we apprehend them to have been nothing more than Butts for the practice of archery.

The site and surrounding estate of Temple Brewer, containing more than three thousand acres, a considerable part of which has recently been enclosed, is extra parochial, and the property of Charles Chaplin, esquire, one of the members of parliament for this county.

The population of this place in the year 1821, was five families and fifty-two persons.

THRECKINGHAM.

THIS place, which is situated in the hundred of Aveland, about eight miles south of Sleaford, was, previous to the year 870, called *Laundon*, at which time, on account of the burial of three Danish Kings or Chiefs, it was changed to *Trekingham*, and so by corruption to *Threckingham*.

Threckingham stands upon the Salt Way, the direct road from the Salt Mines at Droitwich in Worcestershire to the coast of Lincolnshire, therefore there can be little hesitation in pronouncing it a Roman town; and further, as tessellated pavements, and various other ruins have been discovered in its neighbourhood, there remains small doubt of its great antiquity. The Roman road called the Hermen Street also passed through Threckingham. Roman coins are sometimes dug up in gardens, &c., in this place; and all the garden and paddock enclosures being anciently stone walls, shew the town to have been in existence in the time of the Romans, but whether of such consequence as likely to be the *Causennis* so much inquired for, we cannot pretend to determine.^c

This place, like many others in this county, enjoyed ease and prosperity until those terrible scourges the Danes made an irruption into this neighbourhood, and laid waste with fire and sword all that opposed their progress. It appears to have been a place of considerable strength, if we may judge from the defence made against its cruel enemies.

a Vide Gentleman's Magazine, vol. lxi. p. 193.

Ingulphus, Abbot of Croyland, speaking of this affair, says "The Danes entered England in the year 869, and wintered at York; and in the year 870 proceeded to the parts of Lindsey, in Lincolnshire, where they commenced their destructive depredations by laying waste the abbey of Bardney. In the month of September, in the latter year, Earl Algar, with two of his seneschals, (Wibert, owner of Wiberton, and Leofric, owner of Leverton,) attended by the men of Holland (Lincolnshire); Toly, a monk (formerly a soldier), with two hundred men belonging to Croyland Abbey, and three hundred from Deeping, Langtoft, and Baston; Morcar, Lord of Bourn, with his powerful family; and Osgot, Sheriff of Lincolnshire, with the forces of the county, being five hundred more, mustered in Kesteven, in Lincolnshire, on the day of St. Maurice, and fought with the Danes, over whom they obtained considerable advantage, killing three of their kings and many of their private soldiers, and pursuing the rest to their very camp, until night obliged them to separate. In the same night several of the Princes and Earls of the Danes with their followers, who had been out in search of plunder, came to the assistance of their countrymen; by the report of which many of the English were so dismayed that they took to flight; those however who had resolution to face the enemy in the morning, went to prayers, and were marshalled for battle. Among the latter were Toly with his five hundred men in the right wing, with Morcar and his followers to support them; and Osgot the sheriff, with his five hundred men in the left wing, and with the stout knight, Harding de Riehale, and the men of Stanford. The Danes, after having buried the three kings whom they had lost the day before, at a place there called Laundon, but since, from that circumstance, called Threckingham, marched out into the field. The battle began, and the English, though much inferior in numbers, kept their

ground the greater part of the day with steadiness and resolution; until the Danes, feigning a flight, were rashly pursued, without attention to order. The Danes then took advantage of the confusion of the English, returned to the charge, and made their opponents pay dearly for their temerity: in fine, the Danes were completely victorious. In this battle Earl Algar, the monk Toly, and many other valiant men, were slain on the part of the English; after which the Danes proceeded to the destruction of the abbeys of Crowland, Thorney, Ramsey, and Hamstede (Peterborough), and many other places in the neighbourhood."^a

To corroborate in some measure the above, it may be remarked that the land in Stow, south of this village, in old field books is called Danes' Field; and also, that in the years 1778 and 1788 were dug up in the highways and pastures adjoining this village, great numbers of human bones, and a quantity of iron, which mouldered to dust when exposed to the air; so that it was impossible to form any idea of their original shape.

The accounts of this place, given us in Domesday Book, are numerous, and as follow:—

“Land of the Bishop of Durham. In *Trichingeham* there is inland in *Neutone* five oxgangs of land and the sixth part of two oxgangs of land to be taxed. One sokeman and three villanes have there half a plough. The Bishop of Durham has there a twelfth part of the advowson of St. Peter's church, and the sixth part of the advowson of St. Mary's church, and the sixth part of four oxgangs of land which belong to St. Mary's church.

“In the same hundred, and in the same village, a certain

^a Ingulphus's Chronicle, pp. 21 & 22. Edit. Gale.

person called Uluiet has of the King's alms-land so much of the land and parts of the advowson of the churches, and ploughs and vassals, as the abovesaid Bishop has, for they share *Neutone* and what belongs thereto between them."

"Land of St Benedict of Ramsey. In *Trichingeham* St. Benedict of Ramsey had and has half a carucate of land to be taxed. Land to four oxen. One villane has there half a plough. Value in King Edward's time five shillings, the same now."

"Land of Gilbert de Gand. In *Trichingeham* one carucate of land to be taxed. Land to one plough. There is a fair yielding forty shillings; and eleven sokemen and eight bordars."

"Land of Colsuain. In *Trichingeham* fourteen oxgangs and the third part of one oxgang to be taxed. Land to two ploughs and a half. Inland. There is one sokeman, and five villanes, and three bordars with one plough and a half."

"Land of Odo Arbalistarius. In *Trichingeham* ten oxgangs of land and the third part of two oxgangs to be taxed. Land to as many oxen. Berewick in *Neutone*. Odo has there two sokemen with two oxgangs of this land, and five villanes and one bordar with one plough, and two oxen in a plough. The sixth part of the church of St. Peter belongs thereto, and the third part of St. Mary's church, and the third part of half a carucate which belongs to the church of St. Mary."

"Land of Wido de Credon. In *Trichingeham* Wido has two oxgangs of the land of Gilbert de Gand, the soke of which is in *Felchingham*."

"Land of Colegrim. In *Trichingeham* five oxgangs of land and the sixth part of two oxgangs to be taxed. Land to as many oxen. Uluiet now has it of the King, and there is one sokeman, who has one oxgang and the sixth part of two oxgangs, and three villanes with half a plough, and the twelfth part of the church of St. Peter, and the sixth part of the

church of St. Mary, and a sixth part of four oxgangs which belong to the church of St. Mary."

The greater part of this place appears, from the following extracts, to have belonged to Gilbert de Gaunt, when Testa de Nevill was taken.

"Walter de Trickingham held in the hundred of Trikingham the fifth part of a knight's fee of Robert Marmyun, and the said Robert of Gilbert de Gaunt, and he of the King of the ancient feoffment.

"Also John Gumbaud held five bovates, the scutage forty shillings and tenpence, of Gilbert de Gaunt, and he of the King of the ancient feoffment.

"Also Walter de Trikingham held in Trikingham, the twentieth part of a knight's fee of Gilbert de Gaunt, and he of the King of the ancient feoffment, and it was of the gift of Gilbert de Gaunt."^a

"Also Gilbert de Gaunt had in Trikingham the fifth part and the fourth part of a knights' fee, which Hugh de Trikingham and Matilda his mother held."^b

The family of Trekingham appears to have been of considerable note, for we find that a Johannes de Trekingham, misspelt Trehampton, was Sheriff of this county, A. D. 1334.^c In the same year a Walter and a Robert de Trekingham represented this county in parliament.^d

"Elias de Trekingham, a monk of Peterborough, Doctor of Divinity in Oxford, a learned man and great lover of history, writing himself a chronicle from the year 626 till 1270, at which time it is probable he died, was born at this place."^e

A Lambert de Trekingham was one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas in Edward the first and second's

a Testa de Nevill, p. 320.

b Ibid. p. 340.

c White's Catalogue.

d Ibid.

e Fuller's Worthies, vol. ii. p 19.

reign, and also another Lambert was Baron of the Exchequer, the fourteenth of Edward III.^a

The plague appears to have raged here in the year 1646, for on a farm-house, now occupied by Mr. Owen, is the following inscription:—"Vorax pestis Threck" Scævire Me'se Mais, 1646. Robert Gaton."

Neither of the churches mentioned in Domesday Book as being in this place is now in existence. The present church, which is dedicated to St. Peter, and doubtless stands on the old site, is a large well-built stone edifice, consisting of a nave, side aisles, chancel, and south porch, with a lofty tower and spire; much of the work is Early English and Early Decorated, with some later additions. The piers and arches of the nave are varied, and some of the windows of the aisles are of Decorated character. The chancel is a curious specimen of the mixture of the Norman and Early English styles, having quite a Norman appearance on the outside, with round arches, but the details are late; the inside is as clearly Early English, with beautiful shafts and mouldings. In this chancel are a good stall and cupboard.

Of the following arms, noticed by Hollis as being formerly in the windows of this church, three of the bearings in the north window still remain.

In fenestra boreali.

Arg. 2 bars G. in chiefe 3 torteauxes, over all a bend sa.—

Threkingham.

Or. 2 chevrons and a border G.—

G. 3 water bougets arg.—*Ros.*

Barry of 6, arg. & B.—*Grey.*

^a Madox's History of Land Honours and Baronies, p. 113.

In fenestra occidentalis.

Arg. a fesse betw. 3 cootes sa.—*W. Coote.*

In Cancelli.

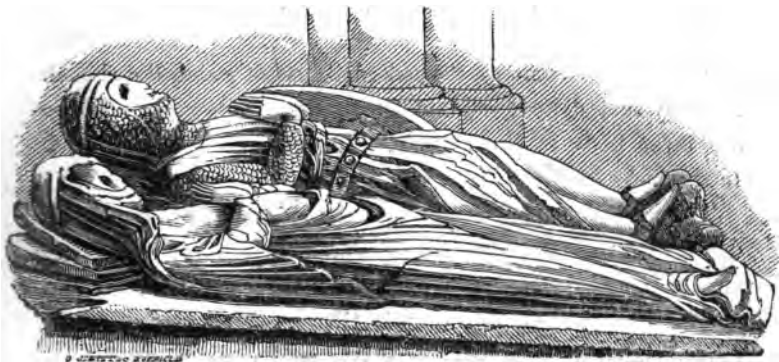
Empd. { Arg. a fesse between 3 cootes sa.—*Coote.*
 { Arg. a fesse dauncy betw. 3 talbots' heads erased sa.—

Nuper depictus.

G. a chevron betw. 3 floures de lize arg.—*Pickering.*

In the north aisle are three stone coffins, with the lids or covers entire; tradition says they once contained the remains of the Danish Kings, killed in the battle before related, but which is undoubtedly an error, for Dr. Stukeley says he traced the words "*Hic Intumlatvr Johannes quondam d'us de Trikingham,*" thereon. It is not unlikely that the above refers to the Johannes de Treckingham, who was Sheriff in the year 1334. These coffins were removed thirty-six years ago, from the church-yard, for better security.

At the east end of the nave, adjoining the north aisle, are the two figures here engraved.



These figures are full size, and according to Hollis represent Lambert de Treckingham and his wife. The man is in a warrior's dress, and on his shield is the arms of the family of Treckingham, viz. 2 bars G. in chief 3 roundels, and a bend over all.

At the east end of the north aisle is a fine mural monument of marble to the memory of the family of Fysher, surmounted with urns, and a coat of arms;—Az. a fess dauncette between three lions passant; arg. impaling arg. a chevron sa. charged with three crosses pomnia, az.—Motto, *Crux Anchora Nobis*. Of this family, who changed their residence from this place to Grantham Grange, Francis Fisher was one of the Members of Parliament for that borough, in the year 1722.

There are a great many inscriptions on the floor to the memory of the families of Seagrave, Hough, Cragg, Hyde, and Hutchinson.

The font is a very curious one; it is circular, with Early English panelling on the upper part, and plain below, except a bare moulding, in the hollow of which the following inscription is cut in letters of bold relief, but which is now so worn away by being trod upon, as to be nearly illegible.

Ave maria gratia. p. v. p.

The ends of some of the oak stalls, with which the church is partly seated, are good, but the pulpit is quite plain. There are three bells in the steeple, and some good screen-work in the body of the church.

The living of this village, with the hamlet of Stow consolidated with it, is a Vicarage, of which Sir Gilbert Heathcote is patron, and the Rev. — Urquhart the present Incumbent.

The tithes belonging to this living, which was anciently appropriated to the monastery of Burton Lazars, in the county

of Leicester, were chiefly exonerated by land given in lieu thereof, at the enclosure of Stow in the year 1768. We find that "Queen Mary, Feb. 10, 1555, for a fine of one hundred shillings, demised to Anthony Pickeringe, gent. the tithes of Threckingham, with their appurtenances, for twenty years, from the feast of the Annunciation then next coming, at the annual rent of one hundred shillings."^a

The lordship of Threckingham contains about eleven hundred acres, old enclosure; the soil, a hazel loam, and mostly grass, half tithe and half tithe free. There are two manors, the principal one belonging to Sir Gilbert Heathcote, baronet, and the other to the Rev. B. Rudge.

The population of this place, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, amounted to thirty-one families, and in the year 1821 to forty-one families, and two hundred and two persons.

At this village, in January 1750, was born Richard South, a person remarkable for his early manhood and strength. At six years of age he could carry with ease twenty stone weight, of fourteen pounds to the stone, and increased in strength till he was twelve years of age, after which he was no more remarkable than other people. He was living in London in the year 1787, and in good health. His father resided here many years, following the business of a tailor, and died at about the age of eighty years. He had seven wives, the last of whom he survived.^b

a Harl. MSS. No. 249, p. 144. b Vide Gent's Mag. vol. lxi. p. 193.

STOW.

STOW, a hamlet in the parish of Threckingham consisting of but three or four houses, is situate about half a mile south-west of it, and adjoins the old road or Hermen Street.

This little hamlet, like many others, once contained a chapel or oratory, the foundations of which may still be distinctly traced.

A fair is annually held here, on a remarkable piece of ground called *Stow Green Hill*, for cattle and all kinds of tradesmen's goods, on the fourth of July, besides another on the fifteenth and sixteenth of June for horses only. These fairs, it is conjectured, were both as one, and formerly held the whole time of the intermediate days, for a toll is still paid for all carriages that pass over the hill between the fifteenth day of June and the fourth of July in each year.

This fair is said to have originated in commemoration of the beforementioned battle with the Danes on or near the above piece of land; however, be that as it may, it is certain that a fair has been held here now near eight hundred years, as one of the extracts from the Conqueror's Survey, introduced in our account of Threckingham, says, "There is a fair yielding forty shillings."

Tanner, in his *Notitia Monastica*, tells us that Henry III., in the fifty-second year of his reign, granted a charter for a fair at this place to the Monastery of Sempringham.

SILK WILLOUGHBY.

THIS place, which was, so late as the year 1494, called North Willoughby, is distant two miles south from Sleaford, on the turnpike-road leading thence to London. The alteration of the adjunct North to Silk, doubtless arose from the circumstance of part of the parish, a kind of hamlet, anciently called *Silkby*, being, about the above time, added thereto.

The ancient accounts of both places being in a manner relative to the whole parish, we deem it better not to separate them.

The Domesday description is as follows:—

“Land of the Bishop of Lincoln. In *Wilgebi* Archel had one carucate of land to be taxed. Land to two ploughs. Ralph, a vassal of the Bishop’s, has there two ploughs, and five villanes and two sokemen having two ploughs and thirty acres of meadow. Value in King Edward’s time thirty shillings, now fifty.”

“Land of Gilbert de Gand. In *Wilgebi* Gilbert has a fourth part of the advowson of the church. Soke in *Wardebi*.

“In *Wilgebi* five carucates of land to be taxed. Land to ten ploughs. Twenty-nine sokemen and one bordar have there six ploughs. There is a priest and church, and one hundred and forty acres of meadow, and twenty-four acres of meadow.”

“Land of Robert de Statford. In *Wilgebi* Osmund had six oxgangs of land to be taxed. Land to twelve oxen. Godwin, a vassal of Robert’s, has there half a plough, and one sokeman with three oxgangs of this land, and one villane with five oxen in a plough, and twenty-four acres of meadow, and twelve acres of coppice wood. Value in King Edward’s time, and now, ten shillings.”

We learn that about A. D. 1260, "the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln gave to Roger Caldhesse one toft in Silkeby, and one bovate of land." Also that, "Thomas de Silkeby held in Wilgheby the eighth part of a knight's fee^a.

About ten years after the above period we find the following account was given in:—

"Osbert Selvayn held in Wyleby two parts of a knight's fee of the Bishop of Lincoln, and he of the King of the ancient feoffment.

"Also Robert de Wyleby held there half a knight's fee of Simon de Kyme, and the said Simon of Gilbert de Gaunt, and he of the King of the ancient feoffment.

"Also Thomas de Silkeby held in Wyleby the eighth part of a knight's fee of Gilbert de Gaunt, who held of the King.

"Also Theobald de Stikewaud held there the third part of a knight's fee of the Count of Salisbury, and he of the King."^b

Another record informs us that in the year 1294, "Robert de Wiletheby held lands in Wiletheby and Sylkeby."^c

It is also stated, in the seventh year of Henry IV., that "William Lovency was required to account to the King for the value of the manor of Silkby," &c.^d

The manor of Willoughby was possessed by Sir William Armyn^e previous to the year 1337, in whose family it continued for some time after A. D. 1662, but how long, or into whose hands it then fell, we have not been able to learn.

The church, which is a rectory dedicated to St. Dionysius, is a fine building of decorated character, consisting of a

a Harl. MSS. b Testa de Nevill, p. 321. c Hund. Rolls. d Orig. Exch.

e This person was Keeper of the Privy Seal and Vice Chancellor to Edward II., and afterwards, in the eighteenth year of his reign, made Chancellor of England and Bishop of Norwich. He died A. D. 1337. VIDE FULLER'S WORTHIES.

tower and spire of very good composition, north and south aisles, a chancel of Perpendicular style, and a porch on the south. The interior arched doorway of this porch is ornamented with a double row of rosettes, and surmounted with a neat niche. The same door remains on which Dr. Stukeley noticed *John Oak, Churchwarden, 1690*, deeply engraven. In this porch is the pedestal of a holy water stoup,^a which is the only relic of the kind left in any of the churches described in these Sketches. The interior of the church is, from the number of windows, unusually light, and principally seated with open oak stalls of much apparent antiquity, many of the ends of which are beautifully carved. Four pillars, supporting pointed arches, separate the nave from the side aisles. The font, which is circular, is in part adorned with nine very beautiful intersecting arches, and the remainder, which is more than one-third of the whole, with three large ornamented roses near the summit, and has decidedly had steps attached to the bottom. This font is, perhaps, altogether one of the rarest specimens extant of the true Norman style of interweaving arches, but is much dishonoured with a thick coat of yellow-wash.

The entrance to the chancel is through a fine screen of open work, but much disfigured by a gaudy colouring. Over this screen was a rood-loft, the opening to which is very apparent.

Three handsome stone stalls or seats and a piscini are in the south wall. The present incumbent has put the chancel, which had been much neglected, into excellent repair, as well as collected the detached pieces of stained glass, and placed them in the east window of it.

Mr. Hollis states that when he visited this church the east window of the chancel contained the following arms:—

a A basin, generally of stone, fixed usually on the east side of the great door, going into the church, which being filled with holy water, some sprinkled and others crossed themselves with it as they went into the church.

- Empaled. { G. 2 chevrons arg.—*Geffrey Peynell*.
 Arg. a fesse B. a labell of 5 G.—*Everingham*.
 Empaled. { G. a fesse betw. 3 waterbougets ermyn.—*T. Meres*.
 Arg. a fesse B. a labell of 5 G.—*Everingham*.
 Empaled. { Ermyne a saltier engrayled, an a chief G. a lyon
 passant gardant, or.—*W. Armyn, jun. miles*.
 Arg. a fesse B. a labell of 5 G.—*Everingham*.
 Empaled. { Arg. on 2 chevrons G. 10 mullets or. on a chief of the
 2^d. 3 falcons volant of the 3^d.—*W. Stanlow*.
 Arg. 3 barrs sa.—*Bussey*.

He also noticed the following monumental inscriptions:—

Hic jacet Joh'es Stanlow de Silkeby, Arm. ac D'nus villæ, qui obiit 27^o die Junii, A'no D'ni 1409.

Hic jacet Johanna uxor Willi Stanlow, & quondam filia Jo'hes Bussy, Militis, qui obiit ———

Hic jacet Will'us Armyn, junior, miles, qui obiit 16^o die Octobr. A'no D'ni 1468. Cujus &c.

Hic jacet Thom. Ermyn, filius & heres Willi Ermyn, de Osgodby, qui obiit — die — A'no D'ni 1498. Cujus &c.

Hic jacet Margareta uxor Willi Ermyn de Osgodby, D'ni de North Willughby, quæ obiit 20^o die Sept. 1506. Cujus &c.

Super tumulum antedictæ Margaretæ hæc arma, viz. Sa. 3 conies heads erased arg.

Hic jacet Will'us Armyn, D'nus de Osgodby, qui obiit 23^o die Septembris, A'no D'ni 1532. Cujus &c.

Of the above memorials only the last one is now to be found. It is a loose copper plate, in the parish chest, and differs from Mr. Hollis in regard to the month being October. Some old lettered slabs, now illegible, remain on the church floor, and also two in the church-yard, one with an inscription and the other with a cross fleury extending its whole length.

Perhaps in no other place has the vulgar prejudice against interment on the north side of the church, prevailed to a greater extent than in the place under review. On the north, however, is one new raised "grassy tomb," which, it may be recollected by some of our readers, covers the remains of one who both lived and died a Christian.

A very excellent rectorial house is situated towards the west, and completely obstructs a direct view of the church. Lord Huntingtower is patron of the living and the Rev. Joseph Jowett the present incumbent, having been inducted into the same A. D. 1812, on the death of the Rev. Thomas Manners, who had been rector here for fifty-two years.

The church registers commence in the year 1562, and contain one notice relative to the Armyn family, viz. the baptism of "Mr. Barthol. Armyn, son of the Wershopful Mr. W. Armyn," A. D. 1596.

A large and ancient house, occupied by Mr. George Tinley, it is conjectured, was the residence of the Armyn family. The Everinghams are also said to have had a mansion in this village, the site of which we apprehend to be covered by the barn and other offices of the farm held by Mr. John Tinley; it is a commanding situation and surrounded by a moat, which encloses about two acres of fine rich land.

A curious specimen of ancient sculpture, representing the tools used by smiths, and implements of agriculture made by them, is seen over a handsome arched doorway, now walled up, which forms part of the village inn. Tradition says that it once formed part of a hall used by a company of smiths, but we incline to believe it to have been nothing more than the entrance to the shoeing shed of some blacksmith's shop, whose owner had the good taste to erect that arch, which has puzzled many wondering admirers of antiquity. Besides the above,

nothing more than the shaft of a cross with a carved base, opposite to the rectory, worthy of the notice of a searcher after antiquities, is to be met with in this part of the parish.

The chapel once standing in that part of the parish anciently called Silkby, is well remembered by an aged and very respectable person, who told us that though it was used as a stable and cow-house, and covered with thatch, yet it still retained, externally, every appearance of a chapel, being built of stone, and having buttresses, arched doorways, &c. The site of it is about a quarter of a mile from the church, adjoining the garden of an old stone house, in which the Stanlows, mentioned by Hollis as being buried in Willoughby church, are said to have resided. It is a little singular that some large flat stones at the end of a lane, forming a sort of bridge over what is called the "Broad water," on the road leading to Grantham, are called *Silkby Stones*.

The whole parish contains two thousand five hundred acres, of which Lord Huntingtower is chief proprietor, and lord of the manor. Sir J. H. Thorold, the Rev. — Scott, Adlard Welby, esquire, and Captain Clifton, have also property here.

In Queen Elizabeth's reign, there were forty-two families here; there are now forty-one, and one hundred and ninety-seven persons.

Although Willoughby lies in a low and hollow bottom, yet the approach to it from the south is exceedingly pleasing, whence the church is seen embosomed in trees, its spire rising above their summits, and the curling smoke of the humble dwellings winding its way through their leaves and branches.

We derive the name of this place from the Saxon *welige*, a willow, and *by*, a village.

AGRICULTURAL
AND
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF THE
DISTRICT.

AGRICULTURE.

*"Nihil est Agricultura melius, nihil uberius, nihil dulcius,
nihil homine, nihil libero dignius."* CICERO.

THESE sentiments of the great Roman orator, statesman, and man of letters, are inscribed at the head of this essay, not with feelings of triumph, but of melancholy derision at the contrast they present to the spirit of the times and to modern opinion of the science. And is the day indeed passed when such sentiments were felt and expressed by manly minds and characters of dignified simplicity? If a man of superior intellect and abilities be wanted, we certainly no longer seek a Cincinnatus to head our armies, or to adorn Imperial dignity with virtues yet more captivating than the purple with which it was bedecked. Honour and dignities, offices and preferment, are now distributed according to other principles, in which talent is either too often wholly overlooked, or to which it is made to be subservient.

But, setting aside these more distant causes, those which immediately affect, and have brought down Agriculture to its

present degraded state, are,—a heavy burthen of taxation,—needy landlords, and a consequently oppressed tenantry:^a these are sufficient, unaided by a false refinement and depraved taste, to reduce the farmer from a state of comfort, plenty, and independence, to one of mere daily drudgery for bread; and to throw the hastily thrashed products of the field from the hands of poverty into those of keen-eyed ever-watchful speculation.

To this disastrous result the unnatural flood of prosperity, induced by the immense increase of the artificial currency during the late war with France, has been, perhaps, equally conducive as the subsequent inadequate remunerating price of produce; the first period led to luxurious habits in families, and a seeking of trifling accomplishments for their children, quite anomalous to their probable spheres of life, and which would never otherwise have been thought of; thus frivolously occupying hours which ought to have been devoted to productive labour or to useful instruction. The last event, the reaction from this state of artificial prosperity, dreadful in its effects, has brought quick-coming ruin upon thousands, and despondence upon those few who have possessed sufficient strength to withstand the storm.

It is hoped that the above general observations may pass excused by those who may differ in opinion; particularly when it is readily acknowledged that, fortunately for the small district to which we are about to turn our attention, they will not apply with the same force which they do with regard to most other parts of England; and for this many causes may be assigned; among others it will naturally occur that the land proprietors

a The above was written during the late oppressive times, and the author does not think proper to suppress it: to forget our misfortunes may be agreeable but not instructive.

ave, generally speaking, met the evil times, and have lowered their rents in fairer proportion;—the district being strictly agricultural, the poor have consequently not been so numerous and burdensome as elsewhere; a considerable portion also of this tract is tithe-free; and to improve these advantages, it possesses a spirited and well-informed tenantry, who contend with adverse times, some of them at an expense that may be thought scarcely justifiable with prudence.

In this slight and necessarily confined sketch of the district under consideration, it must not be pretended so much to give a history of its Agriculture as to convey some idea of its present state; neither indeed could much be said of it, to afford even amusement, certainly not instruction, until the commencement of the last half century; previous to which, it was, with the exception of the comparatively small portion of grazing lands, a bleak, poor, and unsheltered open field country, under a miserable system of cropping; subject to tithes and to all the mutual disputes which tithes produce, and also to little encroachments and pilferings of land and its produce, that are always experienced in such situations, arising from the uncertainty of boundaries, the length and width of lands, &c.:—a very considerable tract too was kept in warren.

From this state it began, however, at the above period gradually to emerge; the turnip culture was beginning to find its way—the dawn of that day which, aided by the bone manure and machine drill, would now shine with meridian splendour were there no lowering cloud or haze in the horizon. As this improvement however relates principally to the heath tract, it will be more in order, previously to entering further upon it, to divide the land of our limits into its several descriptions; and this, without being too minute, may be laid down as heath, clay, and fen; the heath soil in some places degenerating into sand, the clay sometimes approaching the loam of the best heath.

Taking the town of Sleaford as a centre, the heath tract lies north and west of it, forming one quarter of the circle, with little exception beyond a very small portion of fen land or carr in the immediate vicinity:—the clay is found chiefly to the south, and to the east a tract, some of it very fertile and loamy, extends to about five or six miles: beyond this the fen district commences, forming a very extensive and important part of the county, but too distant to come properly within this survey; it may be generally observed, however, that it is better drained, and consequently better cultivated than formerly. The chief crops there are wheat and oats, relieving the land with clover and also cole fed off by sheep.

Of the clay and more fertile soils it may be sufficient here to observe, that these form, to speak generally, the grazing district; admitting very little that is new for observation, more than that a laudable attention has been of late much paid to that great improver of the soil, underdraining, and for many years much praiseworthy care has been bestowed in breeding the grazing stock, rewarding the grazier with increase of profit. But for the chief and leading improvement, and which in the comparatively short space of a few years has advanced the value of the land as from one to at least fifteen,—for this great increase we must look to the heath, the soil of which is generally light and reddish, though varying in colour and also in consistency from the strong loam to a mere sand, and reposing either upon a bed of calcareous stone or upon sand; some of this last description being of a cool quality, is yet more favourable than the other for the growth of turnips.^a Upon this tract, extending over some thousand acres beyond our

^a Mr. Arthur Young, in his Survey of Lincolnshire, describing the heath, calls it "a good sandy loam," with clay enough in it to be slippery with wet, and tenacious under bad management.

present limited survey, and much of which, only fifty years ago, paid a rent not exceeding eightpence or one shilling per acre! Upon this tract the turnip, the bone manure, and the drill, have united their powers to turn, with magical effect, the barren wilderness into a smiling fertile country, ever teeming with variety of produce for the use of man.

The turnip had been introduced here and its cultivation in the field continued for about twenty years, when an active and respectable tenant under the Earl of Bristol, Mr. John Twidale, then a young man, but upon whose head Time has now shed his snows, having accidentally heard of the fertilizing effects produced by the application of the horn and bone shavings from the cutlers' manufactories, &c., in Yorkshire, and that some persons, taking the hint, had erected mills there for the purpose of breaking bones for manure, was induced to make inquiries regarding it, and for that purpose took a journey to the works in that county; but he was not allowed, owing to a system of secrecy maintained by the proprietors of the works, to gain either admittance or information: however, upon his return home, he soon erected, at his own expense, a water-mill, which broke the bones tolerably well. He now proceeded to try the comparative strength of bones against the other manures of pigeons' dung, &c., which had until then been applied for turnips, and finding the decided advantage of the bones, he soon gave up the use of all others, and successively produced excellent crops of turnips, until, in about five or six years, the good effect having become noticed by many farmers in the neighbourhood, other tenants of the Earl of Bristol, &c., aided to bring the use of bones as a manure into general practice: Mr. T's water-mill, besides supplying his own farm with a sufficient quantity, contributing for some years to supply the farmers around at the price of one shilling a bushel or strike; the demand gradually increasing as the

knowledge of the benefit arising from this novel manure became extended. At this period the bones were only broken by the mill into large pieces, and were mixed with dung, or with the earth of ditches, banks, &c.: these heaps were turned once or twice in the course of the year previous to the season for laying them upon the land: each stirring caused a considerable ferment in the heap: they were then carted upon the fallows, spread by hand, and ploughed in, producing very heavy and luxuriant crops of turnips. But the large quantities of bones thus consumed^a at length caused a rapid increase of their price;^b which led to a more economical application of them, and gave rise to the revival and now general use of the drill machine, not only as a depositor of the seed, but also of the manure: the bones, being ground sufficiently small, pass down its hoppers and tubes along with the seed, and being thus together deposited in the earth, the seeds find from the manure an immediate nurse-bed, adequate to carry them to perfection, when the soil is of sufficient strength and properly pulverized to receive them. In this manner from thirty to thirty-six bushels of bones to the acre were first tried; but that quantity has been by repeated experiments gradually lessened, until it is now found that, with the aid of the ashes of burnt turf, or a little pigeon dung, &c., twenty bushels of bones will suffice, with land in good order, to manure an acre of land for turnips; indeed, the writer has heard, and strongly suspects that a *much less quantity* of bone dust has been relied upon, though from such paltry management the crop is frequently and deservedly lost. Those

a From fifty to sixty, and to even one hundred bushels per acre.

b In 1803, and subsequently, the price of bones (broken) was from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a bushel.

farmers however are allowed to succeed best, who, not wholly depending upon this fertilizing substance, join the powers of the yard manure produced in the feeding-stalls, and laying on of it about six loads, then drill twenty bushels of bones to the acre, with the seed.

This slight account of a most important improvement, which has perhaps brought the field culture of the turnip to perfection, may be thought too short by those who seek practical instruction, and may be found much too long by those who do not read it with that view; to these last it may excuse the writer if he informs them that the value of heath land has thus received an increase, of which one instance may suffice to give some idea. In the lordship where Mr. Twidale's farm is situated, the whole rental, little more than fifty years ago, and until the year 1771, was about £223. per annum: we shall not probably be far wide of the mark in stating it to be now in round numbers about £3000! and this advance, it is perhaps but bare justice to the above industrious individual to say, may be mainly attributable to his exertions in bringing the bone manure into general use.

With regard to the drill husbandry, now at length becoming the practice of the best farmers here as elsewhere, for other crops besides that of the turnip, the author cannot refrain from expressing his disapprobation of much of the present management: many farmers drill beans and pease and also white corn; but having done so they stop at the threshold—at the first step of the benefit, and not a hand is sent into the field to earth up the crop, or clear away from it the weeds! as to a plough, that is out of the question, as they ignorantly drill at intervals too narrow to obtain that benefit. Nor has this strange neglect—this slovenly half management been engendered by the late inadequate returns for expense and exertion, but it was the reprehensible practice of better times: let the

farmer however keep in mind that saying of true policy, "whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well,"^a

A beneficial point of management on the arable lands, and a practice which cannot be too strongly approved, is that of top-dressing with manure the clover seeds of the second year in the early spring, or rather towards the close of winter: they are then grazed chiefly by sheep that year, and the land ploughed the following season, in excellent condition to go through the usual course until it is again laid down with clover. This, which it is believed is almost a general practice in Norfolk and Suffolk, is now coming into use with some good managers here. The value of winter-keeping for the stalls and yards is also becoming better understood; and a few farmers have adopted the praiseworthy plan of devoting a piece of land, near the homestead, for the purposes of a cabbage and root garden for supplying the stock during that season.

The farms within the bounds of the present observations, though not generally large, yet many of them contain from three hundred to one thousand acres and more upon the heath, and are conducted with spirited management. What size a farm should properly be is a contested point, the discussion of which will not here be much entered upon; one thing will be allowed by all, i. e. that the capital of the farmer ought to be adequate to his undertaking, and if it is so, a man of activity and spirit should not, perhaps, be limited in the field for his exertions; besides much must depend upon the kind of land; for rich fertile tracts and good grazing grounds may with advantage be set out in small allotments,

a The writer can himself certify that he has, by drilling in the seed by hand every third furrow, obtained upon inferior land about five quarters of beans an acre, notwithstanding that the seed was neither put in very accurately, nor the hand or horse hocings well performed.

while the poor heath, to be well managed, must require a man possessing a capital. But if there may be doubts as to the good policy of allotting large farms, we venture to make the assertion that cottages with from seven to ten acres of land, whether grass or arable, prove highly beneficial in lightening the poor rates alone, besides having an evident good effect on the character of the tenants. The Earl of Bristol, the largest proprietor hereabouts, has conferred a great benefit by allotting, in many parts of his extensive estate, several of these small occupations.

Safe and easy travelling being so conducive to the comfort and economy, not only of the immediate resident, but also of the public generally, some account of the present state of the highways may not be omitted in a survey of this kind. The main roads of the district having lately been placed under the direction of Mr. Mc Adam, are already thereby greatly improved and improving: the benefit of his excellent method is not only visible upon the roads under his immediate superintendence, but the effects of good example are already beginning to appear upon the cross and by-roads, though much—very much, yet remains to be done, before many of these can approach the state of good roads; and perhaps the general material obtained for mending them, which is a limestone of a rather soft nature, will forbid any lasting improvement.

GEOLOGY.

Before we close this division of the Work it remains to give some description of the geological features of the district; but it is with great diffidence we venture upon the task, conscious that whatever indulgence the foregoing subject may claim of

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the reader, we must here still more deprecate criticism, which perhaps we may do with the better grace as we have in vain invited the aid of information. Indeed, though the eye of science may on every part of this globe expatiate with delight and find mental employment, yet the very small portion of it falling now under consideration must be viewed, with but little exception, as one of the least interesting to the geologist: future discoveries may prove it to be otherwise, but at present very few researches have been made beneath the surface; and these for the most part are casual excavations for the common purposes of finding water, or the material for building.

The general feature of the stratum immediately beneath the soil around Sleaford is calcareous rock, which by some has been called "Bedford limestone," and by others "cornbrash," or peculiarly "Sleford stone." With regard to the nature of this stone, though it has not, to our knowledge, been submitted to a strict analysis, yet the late Dr. Darwin, in his work entitled "Phytologia," treats of the limestone of the heath, and there states that the great proportion of magnesia in it has been found to render it unfit for the purposes of agriculture; but he suggests that were a less quantity to be used of the lime made from this stone, than is usually laid on of the purer lime of other places, it might be found equally effectual; magnesia not being, as he observes, detrimental to plants, but rather beneficial in small quantities.

Very little, we believe, is yet known accurately either of the depth to which this rock generally extends, or of the strata beneath it. At Bully (hoiling) Wells, a place well known, about two miles west of Sleaford, a shelly marble has been lately discovered, lying immediately under the limestone and at about fifteen feet from the surface. This marble, specimens of which are in the possession of several gentlemen in Sleaford and the neighbourhood, takes a good polish, but the quantity

likely to be raised is not sufficient to render it of much importance.^a

The late Earl of Bristol, relying upon information that on a part of his estate in the lordship of Quarrington, about a mile south of the above place, a vein of coal was likely to be found, gave orders, in the year 1798, that search should be made for it, and the following account of the strata perforated in boring for the supposed bed of that mineral has been handed to us by J. Cragg, esquire, of Threckingham.

STRATA DISCOVERED IN BORING.		FEET.	INCHES.	OBSERVATIONS.
Sandy moory soil,	. . .	4.		
Blue stone rock,	. . .	7.		
Blue bine, of a marbly clay-like appearance, tender and soapy,	. . .	21.		Bine is hardened clay approaching in nature to stone.
Stony rock,	. . .	3.		
Stronger blue bine,	. . .	12.		
Brown bine and iron stone,	. . .	4.		
Coals,	. . .	3.		
Stone of marble-like grit,	. . .	2.		
Chiefly blue stone solid rock,	. . .	51.		
Depth of water bursting out vio- lently, and uniformly running to this day,	. . .	3.		Orifice of the bore two inches diam- eter. Spring dis- covered on Plow Monday, 1799.
Chiefly solid stone rock, with one small mineral spring shewn by rust on the boring irons,	. . .	195.		
Chiefly a very hard and uniform bed of blue slaty bine intermix- ed with a few balls of iron stone,	. . .	180.		In this bine were pieces of very strong sulphur.
Total bored,		479.	6.	

By the tin pipes which were used to keep the top strata from filling in, they could conduct the stream, by its force, fifteen feet above the surface. The borers tried to stop it with a

^a Pieces of the same kind of marble are found, at about the same level, in a pit near the road at the western extremity of South Rauceby lordship.

strong plug, but it burst out of the skerry of the rock in a fresh place, with great violence.

The same appearances were observed, so far as they went, in boring east of Sleaford.

JOHN CRAGG.

It will be seen, by the above account, that they failed in the principal object; the undertaking however is scarcely to be regretted, as it has been productive of a never-failing plentiful spring of fine clear water, supplying the neighbouring villages, for some miles below it, that frequently before suffered from drought; and as it also affords some interesting geological information: we may add, that it is still the opinion, we believe, of some miners, that could the water have been carried off, a vein of coal might be found sufficient to repay the expense of working.

Turning towards the fen, our attention is principally attracted by the ancient timber trees, chiefly fir and oak, which have been discovered at different places and in great quantities there, buried at a considerable depth beneath the surface; but as this subject has been treated of in another part of the work, and as we consider it almost without the verge of our limits, we will only introduce here a few remarks upon what has been suggested as the cause. It has been the received opinion, supported by Dugdale and other high authorities, that the Romans formed the first embankments against the sea; but as we are also well informed that the Romans "found the whole of this low country down to the sea well inhabited, at least upon the islets and higher parts more free from ordinary inundations," where is the improbability, or rather is it not probable that the native Britons, who every day would see the effect of the tides, should have found means, partially at least, perhaps for a time effectually, to bank out the sea? but it has been a fashion to suppose the poor Britons to have been

incapable of any useful work. The Romans, perhaps, planted these embanked grounds, or they might as probably have become covered with trees by the same gradual process as the primeval forest; for upwards of six hundred years, which elapsed from the departure of the Romans until the Norman conquest, would amply suffice to cover this low country with large timber trees; and with regard to the cause of the overwhelming irruption of the waters, it seems highly probable that, during the subsequent continual state of war, servitude and other calamity suffered by the people, the banks were neglected, and no longer presenting adequate resistance to the tides, the sea broke in, uprooted the forest, and brought, each returning tide, a constant accession of sand to cover the ruin it had made. This sand would be the more readily retained by the fallen branches, until the ground would become gradually and considerably raised; and in this state we may suppose it again to draw the attention of the inhabitants, and that it once more became embanked and cultivated. Perhaps this account of the cause of the buried timber may, to some readers, appear, at least as probable as Sir William Dugdale's hypothesis of an earthquake, which he calls in to lower the whole level of the fen "at one fell swoop"! Having thus expressed our own opinion upon the subject, which we consider every one entitled to do where all is conjecture, we will close with a curious extract from Dr. Stukeley.

"I shall proceed to other particularities, nearer our own times, through every parish; only first take notice in short of a wonderful appearance in nature all over this country, and which is common to all such like upon the globe, as far as my informations reach; that is, the infinite quantities of subterraneous trees, lying three or four foot deep, of vast bulk and different species, chiefly fir and oak, exceeding hard, heavy, and black: many times the branches reach so near day as to

break their ploughs, for so I have heard them complain about Croyland: about Kyme and Billinghay they have dug up some boats or canoes made of hollowed trunks of trees.^a Many people will think that this is nothing but the effect of particular floods and that this country was once a forest and not long since disafforested. This country was once taken into the forest of Kesteven by the Norman Kings, only with a political view of extending their power, and disafforested soon after at the instance of the Prior of Spalding. But in my apprehension, as to the matter before us, such confine their notions to very scanty bounds: an universal phenomenon requires a more dilated solution, and no less than that of the Noachian deluge. But upon this I hope for an occasion to be more copious another time: at present I remember a passage in Pausanius's *Attics* toward the end; speaking of an ebony statue of Archigenes, 'I have heard (says he), from a man of Cyprus, very skilful in medicinal herbs, that ebony bears no leaves, no fruit, nor has it any stock exposed to the sun, only roots in the earth, which the Ethiopians dig up. Some of them are particularly skilful in finding them out.' I doubt not our author speaks of subterranean trees, and that our people might use this timber to better use than burning it."^b

A few testaceous and other fossils are found in the country around Sleaford, but which are by no means peculiar to this neighbourhood; among others a small cockle and the oyster are plainly discernible in the limestone, and upon the hills of stronger soil the plough has discovered pieces of the "*cornu ammonis*," a large clam, and several others; with the pebbly

^a "About the villages of Kyme and Billinghay there have been dug up several boats or canoes, made of the hollowed trunks of trees; but what appears more extraordinary, is the skeleton of a crocodile enclosed in a flat stone, which was discovered here, and is now to be seen in the Museum of the Royal Society of London." WALPOLE'S BRITISH TRAVELLER. ^b Stukeley's *Itin. Cur.* p. 16.

gravel of the low levels are also dug up, besides the above, what are commonly called star stones, thunder bolts, &c.—All these wrecks of creation manifestly declaring the last irruption of waters; as the late diligent researches made by Cuvier and others, at greater depths in the earth, seem evidently to discover that it has undergone other and much more ancient convulsions.

Perhaps it may be deemed irrelevant in a work of this kind, but we cannot refrain here from observing how unphilosophical, as contrary to all accurate geological observation, appears to be the supposition that the earth may have existed from eternity: the various observed strata of the globe, formed at different and remote periods, seem sufficiently to contradict the assertion, for that which increases must have had a beginning, as that which is eternal cannot change; but, as to this, it may be replied that the component matter of the earth only changes its place and has been always the same in quantity, we answer that whether this be so or not, one fact is as certain as the increase of human science, namely that it improves in quality; and human science itself also furnishes a proof, by its undoubted advances, that it must have had a beginning in Time. Let it be also observed here that the Mosaic account of the creation confirms, on this point, the observations of modern science:—"The earth was without form and void."—"The spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." The Great Eternal ordains the separation of the chaotic mass into order; He prescribes to the waters bounds, and to the land its proper barriers; to man, whom he endowed with adequate powers of intellect and body, he then confided the task to labour, embellish, and bring to perfection this glorious, magnificent, and beautiful creation.

Mr. Camden, in his *Britannia*, enumerates the following rare plants peculiar to this district.

- Caucalis daucoides.* Fine leaved bastard parsley: amongst the winter corn at Sleaford.
- Caucalis Latifolia.* Purple-flowered great bastard parsley: amongst the corn in this county, especially about Sleaford and Ancaster.
- Cerastium arvense.* Long leaved rough chickweed: upon the heaths, plentifully.
- Dianthus glaucus.* Mountain pink: on Lincoln heath.
- Geranium sanguineum.* Bloody crane's-bill: on Lincoln heath.
- Lithospermum arvense.* Bastard alkanet: amongst the corn about Sleaford, abundantly.
- Osmunda lunaria.* Moon-wort: on Lincoln heath.
- Polygonum viviparum.* Small bistort, or snakeweed: on Lincoln heath.
- Poterium sanguisorba.* Burnet: on the heaths about Ancaster and Sleaford.
- Rededia lutea.* Rase Rocket: in corn fields, meadows, and pastures, especially of limestone soil, at Ancaster.
- Statis ameria.* Thrift or sea gilly-flower: in meadows about Sleaford.
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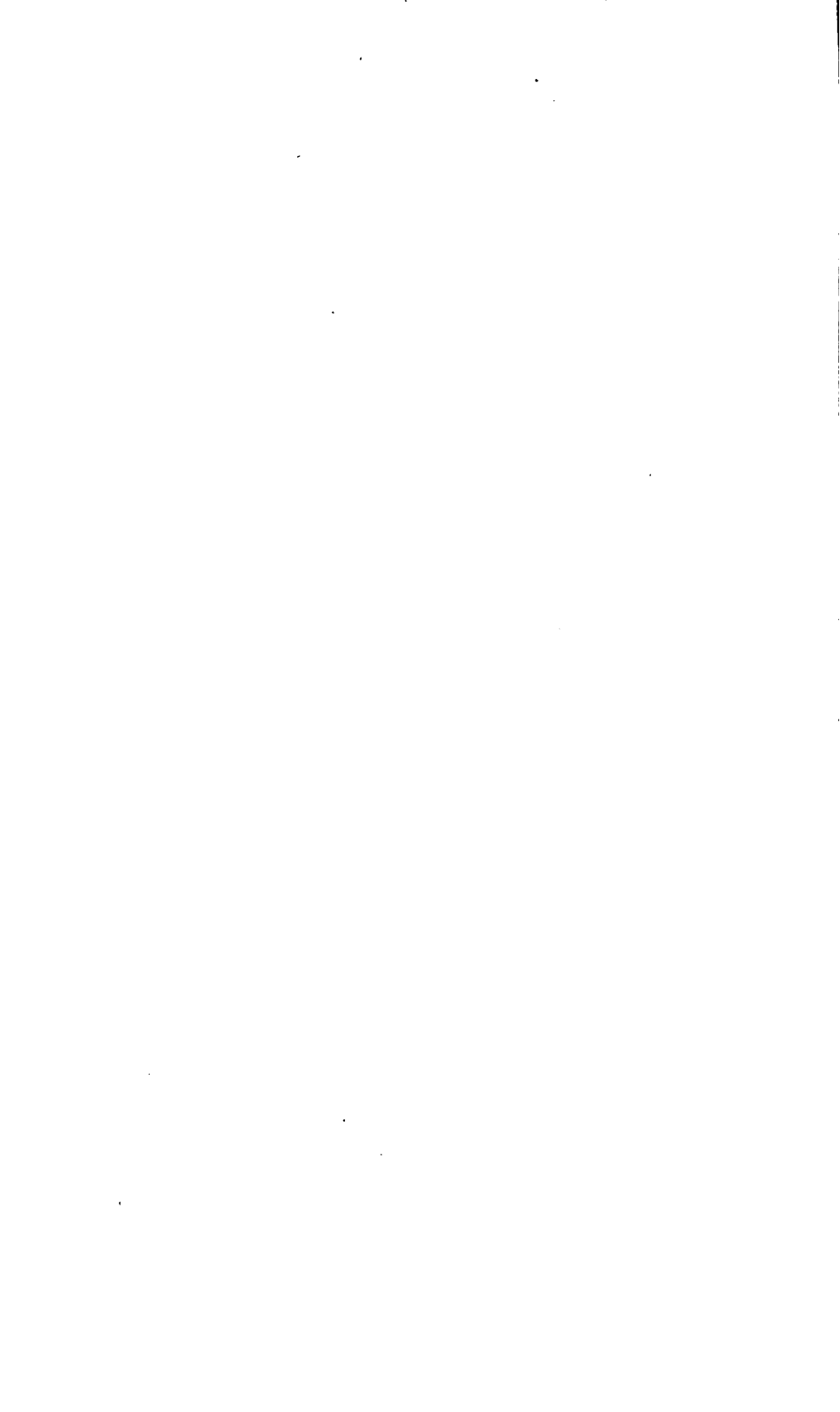
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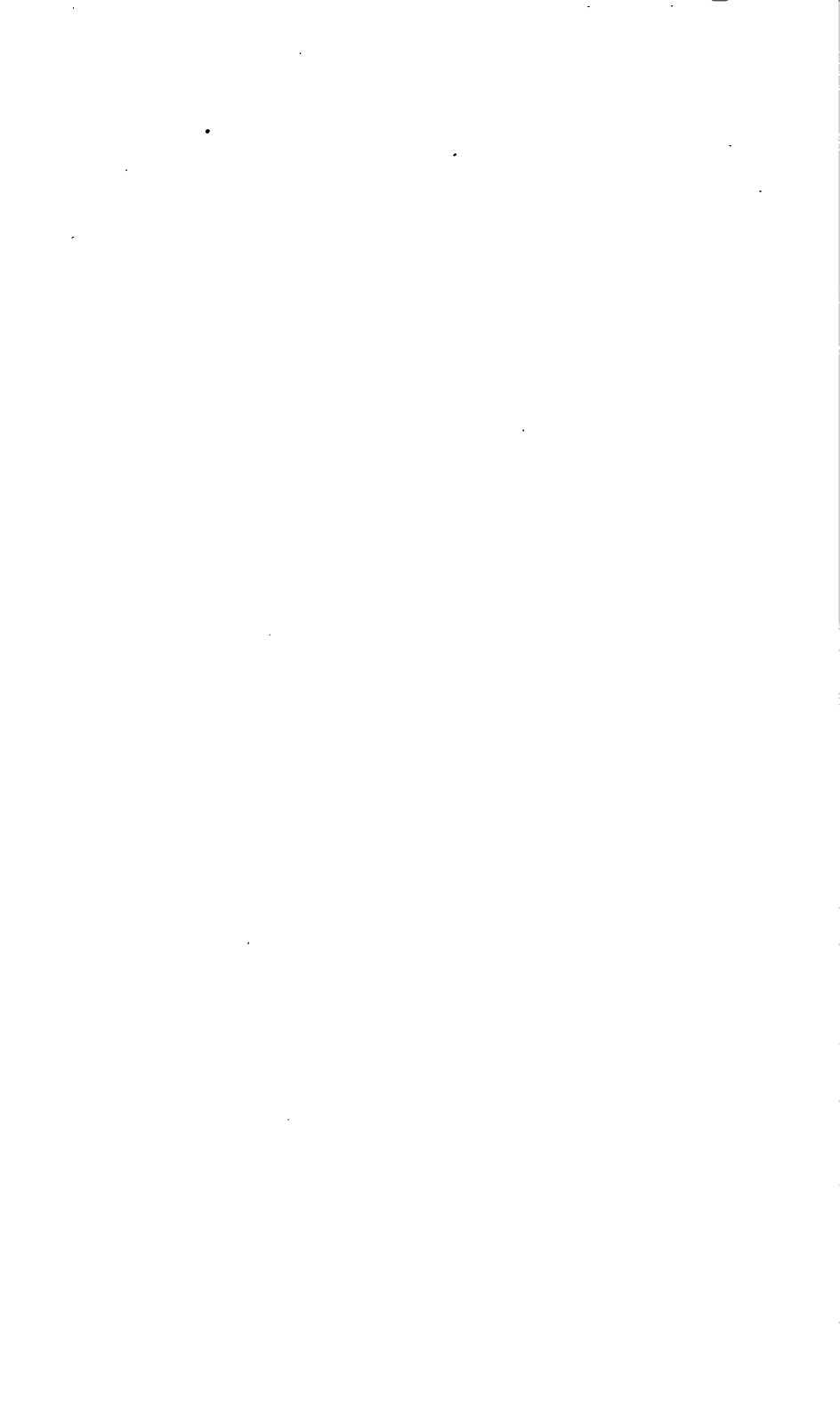
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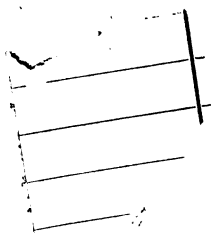
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